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## THE ARMY.

### WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

#### ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the Adjutant-General's Office for the week ending  
March 11, 1872.

Tuesday, March 5.

THE leave of absence granted First Lieutenant Charles P. Egan, Twelfth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 15, January 23, 1872 (amended by Special Orders No. 17, January 25), from headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, is hereby extended sixty days.

Private Patrick E. Gilroy, Company K, First Infantry, now in confinement at Madison Barracks, New York, will be dishonorably discharged the service of the United States upon the receipt of this order at the place where he may be confined.

Private John J. Logue, U. S. Military Academy detachment of cavalry, now with his command, will be discharged the service of the United States, provided there be no impediment, as desertion, etc., upon the receipt of this order at the place where he may be serving. This soldier is entitled to pay, etc., only under paragraph 1871, Revised U. S. Army Regulations of 1863.

So much of the unexecuted portion of the sentence of a General Court-martial, promulgated in General Court-martial Orders No. 137, October 30, 1871, from headquarters Department of the Missouri, as directs that Private Charles A. Whitman, Company C, Sixth Infantry, now in confinement at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, "wear during his term of confinement a ball weighing twenty-four pounds attached to his left leg by a chain four feet long," is hereby remitted.

Wednesday, March 6.

Brigadier-General O. O. Howard, commissioner Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, accompanied by First Lieutenant M. C. Wilkinson, Third Infantry, aide-de-camp, will proceed without delay to the Department of Arizona to execute the instructions given General Howard by the Honorable the Secretary of the Interior, on completion of which they will return to their proper station in this city.

Hospital Steward E. B. Smith, U. S. Army, now on duty in the Surgeon-General's Office, will be honorably discharged the service of the United States, to date March 9, 1872.

Leave of absence for sixty days, with permission to go beyond sea, is hereby granted First Lieutenant John H. Weeden, Corps of Engineers.

Corporal Joseph R. Brown, Company M, Fourth Cavalry, having been appointed Hospital Steward U. S. Army, will report in person to the commanding general Department of Texas for assignment to duty.

Private Jesse H. Robinson, Company B, Eighth Cavalry, now on detached service at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, is hereby transferred to the General Service U. S. Army, and will report in person without delay to the Chief Signal Officer U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. The Quartermaster's Department will furnish the necessary transportation.

Permission to delay starting from his post to comply with paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 53, March 2, 1872, from this office, until the 1st proximo, is hereby granted Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Fry, deputy paymaster-general.

Thursday, March 7.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, Surgeon Dallas Bache is hereby relieved from duty in the Department of Texas, and will report in person to the Surgeon-General.

Private Samuel W. Parks, Company B, Second Cavalry, now in confinement at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., awaiting trial for desertion, is hereby restored to duty without trial, and will be discharged the service of the United States, upon condition of enlisting in Ordnance Detachment U. S. Army, upon the receipt of this order at the place where he may be confined.

So much of the unexecuted portion of the sentence of a General Court-martial, promulgated in General Orders No. 61, of September 25, 1871, from headquarters Department of the South, as directs that Private James Donnelly, Company B, Eighteenth Infantry, now in confinement at Fort Pulaski, Georgia, "be confined at hard labor for the period of three years," is hereby so far remitted as to make the term of his confinement two years, commencing September 25, 1871 (the date of the promulgation of his sentence in orders).

The Quartermaster's Department will furnish Joseph Kelly, formerly private Company E, First Infantry, with transportation from Detroit, Michigan, to this city, to enable him to enter the Soldiers' Home, the cost of which will be refunded to the Quartermaster's Department by the treasurer of the Soldiers' Home, District of Columbia.

On the recommendation of the Ordnance Department, the following changes in the stations and duties of officers of that department are hereby made, and will be carried into effect under special instructions from the Chief of Ordnance: First Lieutenant Cullen Bryant is relieved from duty at Leavenworth Arsenal, Kansas,

and will report for duty at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.; Second Lieutenant Almon L. Varney is relieved from duty at Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, and will report for duty at Leavenworth Arsenal, Kansas.

Friday, March 8.

First Lieutenant Lewis Warrington, Fourth Cavalry, is hereby relieved from signal duty, and will join his proper station.

Second Class Private Jeremiah Crowley, Ordnance Detachment U. S. Army, now at Vancouver Arsenal, Washington Territory, will be discharged the service of the United States upon the receipt of this order at the place where he may be serving.

First Class Private Patrick Keefe, Ordnance Detachment U. S. Army, now at Washington Arsenal, District of Columbia, will be discharged the service of the United States upon the receipt of this order at the place where he may be serving.

So much of the unexecuted portion of the sentence of a General Court-martial, promulgated in General Orders No. 64, of October 21, 1871, from headquarters Department of the South, as directs that Private George Neuner, Company I, Fourteenth Infantry, now in confinement with his command, "be indelibly marked on the left hip with the letter D, two and a half inches long, to have his head shaved, and to be drummed out of the service," is hereby remitted.

So much of the unexecuted portion of the sentence of a General Court-martial, promulgated in General Orders No. 64, of October 7, 1871, from headquarters Department of the South, as directs that Private George S. Thayer, Company D, Fourth Infantry, "be confined in Fort Pulaski, Georgia, for the period of two years," is hereby so far remitted as to make the term of his confinement one year, commencing October 7, 1871 (the date of the promulgation of his sentence in orders).

Sergeant James O. Davis, Company H, Sixteenth Infantry, having been appointed hospital steward U. S. Army, will report by letter to the commanding officer Department of the Gulf for assignment to duty.

Saturday, March 9.

Leave of absence for six months is hereby granted First Lieutenant David A. Griffith, Third Infantry.

The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant Albert L. Myer, Eleventh Infantry, in Special Orders No. 477, December 23, 1871, from this office is hereby extended sixty days.

Captain Alfred Mordecai, Ordnance Department, is hereby appointed to act as inspector on certain unserviceable clothing, camp and garrison equipage on hand at Leavenworth Arsenal, Kansas, and for which First Lieutenant Cullen Bryant, Ordnance Department is responsible.

Monday, March 11.

The leave of absence granted First Lieutenant George E. Albee, Twenty-fourth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 28, February 9, 1872, from headquarters Department of Texas, is hereby extended five months.

By direction of the President, and in accordance with section 26 of the act of July 28, 1866, First Lieutenant Abner H. Merrill, First Artillery, is hereby detailed as Professor of military science and tactics at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, the following changes in the stations and duties of officers of the Medical Department are hereby made: Assistant Surgeon Peter Moffatt will report in person to the commanding officer, Newport Barracks, Kentucky, for temporary duty at that depot. Assistant Surgeon J. B. Girard is relieved from duty at Newport Barracks, Kentucky, and will report in person to the commanding officer Department of Arizona for assignment to duty. Surgeon H. R. Wirtz is relieved from duty in the Department of Arizona to take effect upon the arrival of Assistant Surgeon Girard in that Department, and will report in person to the commanding general Department of California for assignment to duty.

**The Staff Question.**—A large number of replies have already been received to the questions of the Military Committee of the House on the subject of the reorganization of the staff, which were sent by the Committee to a large number of the prominent officers of the Army about a fortnight since. These replies have not been made public, except in a few cases where the officers themselves have had their communications printed and distributed among their friends. General Thomas M. Vincent, of the Adjutant-General's office, has submitted to the committee a modification of the pamphlet prepared by him in 1870 upon the staff. His conclusions are: That the general staff of our Army should have an organization distinct from that of any other corps; that staff appointments should be permanent, and not be made by detail, and they should not only be given to men of great professional and general intelligence, but these men should have a thorough special training, such only as can be obtained in schools instituted for that express purpose, or in a long and continuous course of duties in their respective departments; and, finally, that the general staff should be essentially the same in peace as in war, without reference to the number of troops composing the Army, and such as to produce, from these troops the greatest amount of physical and moral force in the shortest given time.

Adjutant-General Townsend has submitted his views on the same subject to the Military Committee at length, as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, March 5, 1872.

Hon. John Coburn, Chairman Military Committee, House of Representatives.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of

February 21, propounding certain questions on the subject of Staff Organization, to which I submit the following replies:

1. My name is Edward D. Townsend, Adjutant-General of the Army, with rank of brigadier-general. Graduated at Military Academy, West Point, July 1, 1837. Served as second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and regimental adjutant, Second Regiment of Artillery, until August 5, 1846, when I was appointed assistant adjutant-general, and have served since that date continuously in the Adjutant-General's Department. I was on duty with my regiment in Florida and the Cherokee country, and accompanied it on a long march from Florida, inland, to Buffalo, New York. Since being in the Adjutant-General's Department I have served a tour of four years on the Pacific coast.

2. In my opinion no departments of the Staff of the Army can, advantageously to the service and the country, be consolidated, for reasons to be given under their appropriate heads.

3. To consolidate the three departments—Quartermaster, Subsistence, and Pay—in one Supply Department would practically work as follows: The head of the Supply Department would not possibly attend personally to the entire business. He would therefore assign a junior to the charge of each of the three branches in his own office, and would become acquainted with operations of his entire Department through the medium of the head of each branch. While, therefore, the present system would actually not be changed, there would be a loss of responsibility. The common head, not being able to attend to all the business, nor even to keep himself as minutely informed of it as he ought, would be obliged to trust to another, who, after all, would not be the person officially accountable. Thus the responsibility would be constantly shifted from one party to the other, and materially weakened, while there would be no gain of efficiency in any respect.

4. Such consolidation would not reduce the number of officers engaged in these duties. It may be that a less number of officers, and less rank, are required in some of the Staff Departments for peace establishment than they have now. But of this each chief can best decide. In the Adjutant-General's Department there are not officers enough by four to supply present wants. But this opinion does not bear on the question at issue. The officers of the staff departments have to become experts in their business. A commissary knows practically how to cure, pack, and prepare provisions of all kinds, and how to adapt his selection of stores for different climates. He is personally as competent a judge as any merchant. So with other Departments. Now, suppose the Supply Department (consolidated) sends an officer to New York, for instance, to provide transportation, purchase fuel and other Quartermaster's stores, to purchase provisions and to pay troops. One officer cannot do all this. Payments have to be made from three different appropriations; accounts must be kept separate for each appropriation; and while one officer imperfectly superintends all this, he must have other officers or agents of some kind to help him. These other agents, then, are the experts, and the officer of the Supply Department does none of the actual responsible work, simply because he cannot. The same number of books and accounts would have to be kept, requiring the same number of clerks; and instead of the responsibility being directly upon the agent who actually does the business, it is indirectly upon the one who oversees it. If there should not be officers enough of the regular Supply Departments to assist those assigned to the chief duties, officers of the line would have to be detailed, or citizen agents hired. At smaller stations where issues are limited and purchases rarely made, the duties of quartermaster and commissary are often done by one officer under the present system. In this case, therefore, nothing would be gained by consolidation.

5. The question of paying the troops is a very difficult one. It does not so nearly affect the number of desertions as is generally supposed. Steady discipline and good treatment of soldiers by the officers is the best remedy for that crime, together with an adequate punishment and proper places of confinement. Payment by company commanders would involve the frequent changing of funds from hand to hand; great multiplication of accounts, and corresponding increase in the clerical force of the Treasury to settle them; and more than all, frequent and serious losses to the Government from want of secure places of deposit at most of the military stations. Large supplies of funds must be sent to the officers in the fall before communication is cut off with many posts. Agents, whose expenses must be paid, must carry them; for there are no banking facilities at hand. At the posts, a safe, a trunk, or a chest will be the well-known deposit, inviting to frequent robberies. The officers would not be under bonds, and might often be defaulters; or from want of capacity for keeping such intricate accounts, might often make serious mispayments. Suppose the remedy be applied of requiring bonds. Not many officers could get bonds without leaving their post; if they could at all. Moreover, where a man is required to give bonds for any duty, he should have the liberty of accepting or declining the duty rather than give the bond. Another objection would be a removal of check against paying wrong accounts, for the officer who made up the soldier's statements would likewise pay him. Now, the paymaster first examines and corrects the accounts before he pays them, and he is charged with mistakes if the soldier cannot be reached to rectify them. Then, after all, provision must be made for payments of soldiers discharged away from their commands, and of officers at posts. The opinion is deliberately entertained that any other mode of payment than the present must necessarily be more complicated, and subject the Government to immensely greater risk of loss.

6. The only argument to my knowledge yet advanced in favor of consolidating the Ordnance and Artillery is, that men who use the arms and ammunition should have something to do with their selection and manufacture. This certainly applies equally to the cavalry and infantry. Why not then include them in the consolidation? Prior to the organization of the Ordnance Department, officers of artillery were detailed on Ordnance duties for two years and then relieved by others. Those were the days of flintlocks and smooth-bore. To pursue that plan now would result in one of two things; either there would be an utter loss of progressive knowledge and discovery in the science of arms and projectiles, because the officers charged with their preparation, etc., would be changed so often that no one would have time or feel interest enough to make that science a special study; or else the officers would be adapted to that service would be constantly kept upon it. This last would then bring the matter practically back to its present status, with the great disadvantage that no officer could be sure of a permanent detail on his favorite duty, and there is no more discouraging element in human nature than suspense. The interchange of duties would have also, as experience abundantly shows, the effect to make officers dissatisfied with either one or the other of their different duties. If they prefer company duty, they go reluctantly to Ordnance duty when their turn comes; if they prefer Ordnance duty, they return with distaste to their companies. Under the present system, as great certainty of having only competent officers, and those having a talent for that line of duty, is secured, as in the nature of things is possible. A certain number of the highest graduates of each class at the Military Academy is recommended by the Academic Board, after four years of close observation, as suitable for assignment to the Ordnance; and those recommended are at liberty to choose the Ordnance if they like, or some other corps, or a regiment if they prefer. There may be occasionally men who have not graduated high enough to secure the recommendation, who would yet have proved good Ordnance officers; but what human rule is without defect?

7. The duties of officers of the Adjutant-General's Department and of Inspector-generals are entirely different, and nothing could be gained by consolidating them. There is no need whatever of a head to the Inspector's Department. The proper theory of inspections is this: A division or department commander should have inspections made within his command to inform him of matters needing correction. Reports of such inspections should not go beyond the commander for whom they are made, for he does not wish unnecessarily to expose to higher authority defects in his own jurisdiction which he can remedy. The ranking inspectors should be sent by the President, Secretary of War, or commanding general of the Army, to make confidential inspections of staff, or other operations, quite independent of the division or department commanders who may be affected by such inspection. With all this the Adjutant-General's Department has nothing to do. Nor could a blending of the two duties work otherwise than as follows: Two officers of the Adjutant and Inspector-General's Department are



stationed at a headquarters to do indifferently the duties of adjutant-general or inspector-general. Both duties cannot be done at one time by the same officer, because inspecting involves travelling away from the headquarters, where adjutant-general's duties must be done. If the two officers take turn about in their two separate lines, responsibility is most apt to be weakened and interest relaxed in one or both. Mercantile life will illustrate this position. A judicious merchant will not confide his books one month to one clerk and the next to another, lest if mistakes occur the responsibility drop between the two instead of falling upon the right one. Nor is the responsibility of officers of the Adjutant-General's Department imaginary. They have charge of and are accountable to the Secretary of War for records of the highest importance, which will eventually be brought to Washington as part of the nation's archives; and not even the department commander himself can interfere with that accountability.

8. The direction and control of the Staff Departments and Corps must, to a certain extent, be shared by the Secretary of War and the General of the Army. Their several provinces can be clearly defined. The President, of course, has control of both those officers, who are his assistants, each in his own sphere, and ministering military laws and regulations. Yet the Secretary of War, as a Cabinet Minister, must control the General of the Army, for it is a well-established principle, decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, that the order of the Secretary of War on military matters must be taken as that of the President. The ordinary course of administration is this: Estimates made for all supplies used by the Army, and for all its operations, prepared under the direction of the department commanders, are scanned by the General of the Army, asisted by the heads of the Staff Bureaus, and submitted to the Secretary for revision and transmittal to Congress. Further estimates for engineer and other operations, not to be used in conjunction with the troops, are submitted directly to the Secretary by the heads of bureaus. The Secretary can of course consult the general about these. The appropriations having been made, requisitions upon them can only be drawn by the Secretary. The heads of bureaus cause supplies of all kinds to be prepared and collected in depot under instructions from the Secretary, who properly controls the expenditure of appropriations. These supplies are placed at the disposal of the troops as needed, upon requisitions transmitted by department commanders, approved by the General, and finally ordered by the Secretary. The disposition of them thenceforward passes from the immediate supervision of the Secretary to the General and his subordinate commanders, and the money accountability to the Treasury further falls upon the staff officers who receipt for and issue them. There are some matters of staff administration which the Secretary alone can conduct; for instance, many temporary supplies for Indians, etc., which are decided generally by consultation between the President and the Cabinet Ministers directly concerned.

9. As at present organized, the staff is, for all needful purposes, sufficiently under control of division or department commanders. The latter should not control depots of supply intended for the whole army, or for parts of it not within their command. By requisition made in season they can always secure all the assistance necessary for the use of their own commands. In emergency the telegraph can be used, or, under certain circumstances, well understood by military men, they may assume the control of everything within their reach, if justified by real necessity. Officers of every branch of the staff are always assumed to be commanders and are as absolutely subject to them as any line officer can be.

10. The effect of continuing the same officers in a particular branch of the staff, and of allowing promotions only within them, is to give them a motive and pride in perfecting themselves in every sort of information that can make them efficient. If sure of a continuance and promotion in the line of duties of their choice, their zeal and fidelity rarely flag. If always under the apprehension, or certainty, of being transferred to other duties, perhaps by no means so genial to their tastes and talents, they cannot be expected to take interest in their staff duties, except so far as to acquit themselves without actual blame. The hope of promotion is always a healthy stimulus.

11. As men in civil life, trained specially for a particular profession, are generally more efficient in that profession than those who have no training, so are military officers more efficient who are educated, trained, and promoted for specialties. There is daily opportunity in the War Department for testing this principle. It is well known to most members of Congress that constant reference is made to records for the purpose of adjusting claims against the United States. It is not too much to assert that many millions of dollars have been saved to the Treasury by information furnished from papers, now on file in the War Department, which were collected from all parts of the country during and after the war. The system of keeping all kinds of records, originating in the Adjutant-General's office, and carried out by officers instructed by its means, contributed, first, to the preservation in good form of valuable papers; and, second, to having them safely deposited in the War Office after their use at the headquarters where they originated had ceased. That this is due to an organized Staff Department appears from the fact that there are no such records relating to the times when commanding generals detailed for acting assistant adjutant-generals any officers they chose for the time being. In those days the generals were apt to consider all letters and correspondence, not immediately forwarded for action to Washington, as their own private property. The slight traces of those old records now to be found show a great contrast with the elaborate files of recent dates, so carefully arranged and preserved as to afford, without loss of time in searching, almost all necessary data in any given case.

The conclusion is that general staff officers are more efficient and valuable than line officers, temporarily detailed, would be, because they take a pride in the department to which they belong, and not being, as it were, the creatures of their generals, they feel the responsibility constantly weighing upon them of accountability to the War Department. Nor does this in any degree weaken their obligation to perfect military subordination to their commanding general for the time being. The generals have, on the other hand, a more personal relation as staff officers, fulfilling in this respect all needful purposes. Beside the objections already mentioned to freedom of detail or transfer of staff officers from one branch of the service to another, there is a serious one of a political nature. Had the Executive the uncontrolled power to transfer and appoint, there might be a time when, by skillful collection of agents from all branches of the Army, at influential political centres, with large contracts and heavy disbursements to be made, a most dangerous power could be wielded. Under the present system such a thing would not be possible once in a century.

Corps of officers trained in special staff duties, while performing those duties in time of peace, are perfecting themselves and keeping alive their system. When war comes, they are so many skilled directors and instructors for volunteer officers appointed to their departments for service with volunteer troops called into action. There is no more perfect mode of rapidly organizing and mobilizing bodies of raw troops.

12. I do not think any law or regulation necessary to change the present status in regard to specialties of staff officers. The President has now ample power to avail himself in any way he may think proper of the talents or knowledge of any individual officer.

**GENERAL REMARKS.**—The old Florida war is a standing exemplification of the inefficiency of the system of temporary details for staff duty. There were constant well grounded complaints of want of supplies and facilities of all kinds for the troops, and, as the records will show, no lack of expenditure of money meantime. In several instances large commands were well nigh losing their scalps in consequence of starvation in their beleaguered forts.

In 1857-8 the present system of the staff was established, and, in the two great wars which have occurred since, the manner in which our armies have been clothed, transported, fed, paid, and provided with medical attendance, has attracted the admiration of the military world. Undue extravagance during the late war has been alleged against the disbursing branches of the staff; but it should be remembered that the people, through their Governors, State and national legislatures, demanded that every comfort and convenience should be given to the men who left their homes and business to serve in the war. Special enactments were passed to this end and appropriations made to carry them out. The officers concerned, then, only did their duty in obedience to those behests. Since the war closed a rigid economy has been more and more carefully enforced, until the Army cannot fail to perceive the contrast between the supplies of the war time and the mere necessities now furnished them.

It will, of course, sometimes happen that unsuitable officers are appointed in the staff. This could in a great measure be obviated by giving more weight to the opinions of the heads of departments as to the selection of their own officers. It may be presumed they would generally be governed by the single object of maintaining

the utmost efficiency of their own corps. From frequent official intercourse with officers acting in their departments, through returns, correspondence, etc., they have great opportunity for judging of any one's fitness for their business; and it is always easy to influence have little fitness for the place, and that a good line officer is turned into an indifferent staff officer. At the same time the head of the department must feel little responsibility attaching to him for the conduct of those appointed, perhaps against his judgment. If it be that some officers are now found in the staff who ought not to be there, the remedy lies in courts-martial, in verdict of Retiring Boards, under which the President can now discharge an officer, with one year's pay, for inefficiency produced by his own fault; and in the power of exchanging two officers of equal grade of different branches of the Army, on their mutual application, approved by the commanding officers concerned.

The fact that there are sometimes unsuitable officers in a department should not weigh against the staff system. The fault is not in that; but mistakes will be incident to any system that may be adopted, and the present organization is less liable to mistakes than any other, for it has been carefully built up during a period of thirty-five years. It is simple, direct, perfect in its accountability; and under it the sum of the losses to Government is comparatively small, because it rarely happens that defalcations fail to be discovered before they reach an amount too large to be entirely recovered.

And it has stood the test of war. A fair exemplification of that test may be seen in the Report of the Secretary of War of the manner in which the Volunteer Army was paid and disbanded in 1865 through the agency of the several branches of the Staff.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

E. D. TOWSEND, Adjutant General.

**General Sherman Abroad.**—A correspondent of the *London Times* has the following account of the General's doings and sayings in Italy: "Mr. Lorimer Graham, the American Consul, issued cards for a ball to meet Gen. Sherman. Mr. Graham is an American gentleman of taste and fortune, and very hospitable—just the sort of man any nation would covet as their consular representative. He takes no fees, and tries to make nothing out of you by exchange or shipping, and invites you to a capital dinner, where you meet the best society. His apartment at the Palazzo Orsini was decorated with great taste; a profusion of flowers and exotic plants formed a most charming background for the toilets of the ladies, who, to the number of 350, crowded his salons. I penetrated with no small amount of difficulty to an inner room, where was caged the lion of the evening, Gen. Sherman. He was surrounded by a brilliant gathering of Italian officers, eighty having been invited to meet him. The General is tall and erect, wiry in make, very unaffected, and natural in his manner; his uniform, which is plain, made a great contrast with the splendid costumes of the Italian Etat-Major, and it partook almost more of the naval than the military to a casual observer. We were introduced to him, and he shook hands very cordially with us all. He told me this was his first visit to Europe, and his great object is to see and visit the Mont Cenis Tunnel and the Suez Canal. As for ladies and gentlemen, men and women, he could see plenty of them in his own country. "Well, General," said I, "what do you think of Italy?" "Oh, a very nice country, but old, very old—nothing to be done; not a like my country, where all has to be done." Peruzzi, our Mayor, happening to be near, I called to him, and explained in Italian that the General thought Florence was a finished work. "Niente più da fare! Corpo di Bacco!" exclaimed he, "I wish I had 10,000,000 francs! I could lay them out to-morrow, and I will do so if I continue in my place." The ball was kept up till eight in the morning, and a few American beverages were introduced at supper, and afterward went through several editions.

**Corps of Engineers.**—The following is a memorandum of orders, circulars and instructions, relating to the Corps of Engineers, issued or received during the month of February, 1872:

First Lieutenant Post—Granted leave of absence for twenty days. S. O. No. 27, par. 7, W. D. A. G. O. Feb. 1.

Colonel Simpson—To proceed to Montgomery, Ala., and examine the bridge of the South and North R. R. Co., over the Alabama river, and report whether it obstructs navigation of the same. Letter Chief of Engineers, Feb. 2.

Lieutenant Colonel Newton, Lieutenant Colonel Reynolds, Major Warren, Major Merrill, Captain Allen—Board of engineers to assemble at St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 19, to examine and report upon such questions connected with the harbors of St. Louis, Mo., and Alton, Ill., and with the banks of the Mississippi river, as shall be placed before it. S. O. No. 20, par. 1, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 7.

Captain Twining—Granted leave of absence for thirty days. S. O. No. 21, par. 1, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 8.

Lieutenant Colonel Foster—Confirms telegraphic order of Feb. 8, directing him to proceed to Washington, D. C., and report to the chairman of the Committee on Mines and Mining, House of Representatives. S. O. No. 21, par. 2, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 8.

Captain Cuyler—Granted an extension of thirteen days to the leave of absence for seven days granted by his commanding officer. S. O. No. 22, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 9.

First Lieutenant Weedon—Granted an extension of twenty-three days to the leave of absence for seven days granted by his commanding officer. S. O. No. 23, par. 1, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 14.

Battalion of Engineers—Commanding officer to detail one sergeant and four artificers from Company D, to report without delay to the engineer officer, headquarters a Department of the Missouri Railroad. S. O. No. 39, par. 6, W. D. A. G. O., Feb. 15.

Lieutenant Colonel Woodruff, Major McFarland, Major Wilson, Captain Farquhar, Captain Gillespie—Board of engineers to assemble at Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 26, to report a plan for the further improvement of the harbor of Grand River, Ohio. S. O. No. 25, par. 1, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 17.

First Lieutenant Stanton—Temporarily relieved from duty with battalion of engineers, to report to Lieutenant Colonel George Thom, for duty in Boston, Mass. S. O. No. 25, par. 2, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 17.

First Lieutenant Mallory, Additional Second Lieutenant Bass—Members of a General Court-martial, to meet at West Point, N. Y., Feb. 23. S. O. No. 42, par. 6, W. D. A. G. O., Feb. 19.

First Lieutenant Post—To rejoin his station by March 1, 1872. S. O. No. 43, par. 7, W. D. A. G. O., Feb. 20.

Lieutenant Colonel Foster—By direction of the Secretary of War, to proceed to West Point, N. Y., and in conjunction with the superintendent of the Military Academy, examine and report upon the proposed shore route of the Hudson River and West Shore Railroad. S. O. No. 37, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 23.

Captain Howell—Granted leave of absence for two weeks. S. O. No. 28, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 24.

Lieutenant Colonel Wright—To proceed to Washington, D. C., and report to the chairman of the Committee on Mines and Mining, House of Representatives. S. O. No. 29, H. Q. C. of E., Feb. 26.

First Lieutenant Post—Revoles so much of paragraphs 7 S. O. No. 27, Feb. 1, and 7 of S. O. 43, Feb. 20, 1872, W. D. A. G. O., as relates to S. O. No. 47, par. 2, W. D. A. G. O., Feb. 26.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Brigadier-General A. H. Terry, Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky.

**Chattanooga, Tennessee.**—The General Court-martial

which convened at Chattanooga, Tenn., January 26, pursuant to S. O. No. 14, c. s., headquarters Department of the South, and of which Captain H. C. Cook, Second Infantry, was president, was dissolved February 16.

**Savannah, Georgia.**—The General Court-martial which convened at Savannah, Geo., January 29, pursuant to S. O. No. 12, c. s., headquarters Department of the South, and of which Captain L. L. Livingston, Third Artillery, was president, was dissolved February 13.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Colonel W. H. Emory: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.

**Key West, Florida.**—The General Court-martial which convened at Key West, Florida, December 28, 1871, pursuant to S. O. No. 5, dated December 5, 1871, from these headquarters, and of which Lieutenant-Colonel Romeyn B. Ayres, Third Artillery, was president, was dissolved February 5.

**Fifth Cavalry.**—First Lieutenant Charles King, aide-de-camp, Feb. 21 was ordered to accompany the department commander to Jackson, Miss.; thence to proceed to inspect the posts of Oxford, Holy Springs, Saltillo, and Aberdeen (via Grand Junction, and Corinth), and upon completion of this duty to return to his proper station.

**Nineteenth Infantry.**—First Lieutenant Mark Walker, February 21, was ordered to Baton Rouge, La., on public business, and upon completion of this duty to return to return to his proper station, Jackson Barracks, Louisiana.

Assistant Surgeon Richard Powell, U. S. Army, having reported at these headquarters in compliance with paragraph 3, S. O. No. 463, War Department, series of 1871, for assignment to duty in this department, February 20, was ordered to Jackson, Miss., to report to the commanding officer, of the troops stationed there, relieving Assistant Surgeon A. A. Yeomans.

**Jackson, Miss.**—Upon the requisition of the United States Marshal for the Southern District of Mississippi, and upon the request of His Excellency, the Governor of Mississippi, the commanding officer of the U. S. troops at Jackson, February 22, was directed to detach a discreet officer with twenty-five men to take post at Philadelphia, Neshoba Co., Miss., with thirty days' supply of provisions. In any action which may be taken in support of the civil authorities, the officer commanding was instructed to be governed strictly by the provisions of circular of December 4, 1871, from these headquarters.

#### MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieutenant-General P. H. Sheridan: Chicago, Ill.

A DESPATCH from Salt Lake city March 7, 1872, says: Lieutenant General Sheridan's visit to Utah has been postponed until later in the spring. Two of his staff officers, Colonel Forsyth and Colonel Sheridan, arrived last night, and will soon make a military tour through the south of the Territory to select places for military posts to be located there this summer near the Navajo country.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.

**Second Cavalry.**—Captain Edward Ball, Company H, Second Cavalry, in an official report, dated Fort Ellis, Montana Territory, December 10, gives an account of his visiting the new Crow Agency with several companies for the purpose of escorting Mr. Muhlenberg and surveying party, of the Northern Pacific Railroad, down Yellowstone river. He started on the 16th of September. On the 10th of October a fire broke out in one of the tents in the officers' line, and although a number of men were at the time within a few feet of the tent, all efforts to extinguish the flames were unavailing. The wind was blowing such a terrific gale that not more than a minute could have elapsed from the time the fire was first discovered until it had swept down to the river, a distance of 250 yards, taking the entire line of Company H's tents, burning the clothing, bedding, arms, carbines, camp equipage, and ammunition. Although the alarm was given at the moment the fire made its appearance through the tent, the men who were asleep in their tents, 150 yards from this point, had their clothing, hands and hair burned before they could get out. About 800 rounds of carbine and pistol cartridges were exploded in the burning debris after the fall of the tent, yet not a man nor animal was injured. Lieutenant James G. MacAdams was despatched back to Fort Ellis with one wagon and a small escort on the following morning, where he obtained all that was necessary for the equipment and comfort of the men, and returned to the command on the 17th of October, making a march of 166 miles with wagons over a rough road, and through an almost continuous snow-storm. The survey of Muhlenberg was afterward made to a point on the Yellowstone river, 110 miles east of the Crow Agency, to which point Capt. Ball escorted him, arriving there on the 14th of November, giving him all the protection required, and all that was necessary. Winter had now set in and the survey was continued no further. The return was made to see Crow Agency on the 25th of March, of 110 miles in nine days, with snow from six to ten inches deep, and snow-storms during seven days out of the nine. On arrival at the post it was found on examination that thirty-three of the escort and twenty-four of the detachment of G and L companies taking grain to the escort, had their faces, hands, feet, ears and noses painfully frozen. No hostile Indians were seen. The transportation company lost three mules by death and one abandoned. The cavalry lost seven horses; two died, one from injury by falling on rocks, and one from general debility; one froze to death, and four gave out and were abandoned.

**Seventh Infantry.**—Major W. H. Lewis, acting assistant inspector general of the department, February 29, was ordered from St. Paul, Minn., to Whetstone Agency, Dakota Territory, for the purpose of making an investigation at that station, under special instructions from headquarters. While at that station he will make the usual formal inspection, and on his return will also



inspect the post at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, and the depot at Sioux City, Iowa.

*Seventeenth Infantry.*—Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Captain C. E. Bennett, March 1.

*Fort Shaw, Montana.*—A correspondent writes from this post February 23, 1872: "The members of Company H, Seventh Infantry, gave a ball in the company's mess room on the evening of February 22. For some time past, the committee having charge of the arrangements have been active in preparing for the occasion, and nothing was left undone that would contribute to the pleasure of those who attended. The mess room was fitted up in a tasteful and creditable manner, the many wreaths, bouquets, artificial flowers, evergreens, etc., all being placed in a proper position by the skilful hand of Sergeant Dorot, Company H. Dancing commenced at 8:30, the band, under the leadership of Sergeant Kunsell, rendering most eloquent strains while the dancing was going on. At 12:30, all hands repaired to the supper-room, where was found a most sumptuous repast, placed on tables decorated by the delicate hands of the ladies, assisted by Corporal Volkey of Company H. Ample justice being done to the many good things, the ball room was again filled, when the dancing was kept up until near daylight, when all repaired to their homes satisfied with the night's entertainment." A General Court-martial met at Fort Shaw, Montana Territory, March 26. Detail for the court: Colonel John Gibbon, Seventh Infantry; Major H. C. Ransom, quartermaster, U. S. Army; Captains H. B. Freeman, T. S. Kirtland, J. M. J. Sanno; First Lieutenants H. M. Benson, J. W. Jacobs, William Quinton, W. H. Nelson; Second Lieutenants Daniel Robinson, F. M. H. Kendrick, Seventh Infantry; First Lieutenant A. H. Jackson, Seventh Infantry, judge-advocate.

*Fort Rice, Dakota Territory.*—The commanding officer of Fort Rice, Dakota Territory, March 4, was directed as soon as practicable to send a detachment of twenty-five non-commissioned officers and privates, under a commissioned officer, to take post at or in the immediate vicinity of the mouth of "Apple Creek," about twenty-five miles above his post, for the protection of an engineering party of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and such stores as the company may have at that point. This detachment may be relieved from time to time, at the discretion of the commanding officer of Fort Rice, by others of the same strength, (or greater, if necessary), and this force will be maintained at the point in question until further orders from these or superior headquarters.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

*Brigadier-General John Pope:* Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.

Captain W. M. Dunn, Jr., aide-de-camp, March 2, was ordered to Chicago, Ill., on business connected with headquarters, and on completion of this duty to rejoin his station.

*Fifth Infantry.*—The telegraphic instructions from this office of 2d instant, directing First Lieutenant Henry Romeyn, Fifth Infantry, acting assistant quartermaster, at Fort Scott, Kansas, to send the man arrested as a deserter from the Sixth Infantry, to the headquarters of that regiment at Fort Hays, Kansas, for transmission to his company, were confirmed March 4.

*Sixth Cavalry.*—Upon the completion of the duty assigned him at Denver City, C. T., by paragraph 2, S. O. No. 2, c. a., from these headquarters, Second Lieutenant C. C. Morrison, March 2, was ordered to Colorado Springs, C. T., for the purpose of procuring copies of the recent surveys of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in the vicinity of the Raton Mountains, for use in the compilation of military maps at these headquarters, on completion of this duty to rejoin his company.

Leave of absence until April 1, was granted First Lieutenant C. H. Campbell, March 7.

*Eighth Cavalry.*—Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Captain F. D. Ogilby, Eighth Infantry, March 2. The telegraphic order of the 4th instant, from this department directed the commanding officer District of New Mexico to detail two commissioned and three non-commissioned officers of the Eighth Cavalry, from Fort Union, New Mexico, to proceed at once to Kit Carson, Colorado Territory, for the purpose of conducting a detachment of recruits for the Eighth Cavalry, to the headquarters of that regiment.

*Fort Laramie.*—A telegram from Fort Laramie, states that Red Cloud, with 200 warriors, came in to that post, Tuesday, March 12, to hold a council.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

*Brigadier-General E. O. O. Ord:* Headquarters, Omaha, Nebraska.

A correspondent writes from Camp Brown, Wyoming Territory, as follows: "No Army news of interest. We have been snowed in for some weeks almost months. No paymaster has been here for the last six months, but one is expected soon. The weather is almost like spring, and the soil is nearly free from snow and frost."

#### DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

*Brigadier-General C. C. Augur:* Headquarters San Antonio, Texas.

*Fort Clark, Texas.*—Twenty-fifth Infantry, Colonel George L. Andrews.—January 7, First Lieutenant E. J. Stims, Twenty-fifth Infantry, relieved Second Lieutenant S. K. Thompson, from duty at sub-post of Camp Hudson, Texas. A General Court-martial, of which Captain D. Schooley, Twenty-fifth Infantry, is president, and Captain A. E. Hooker, Ninth Cavalry, is judge-advocate, convened at Fort Clark on the same date. January 11, a company of unassigned recruits Twenty-fifth Infantry, was organized, and Second Lieutenant D. B. Wilson, Twenty-fifth Infantry, assigned to command. January 14, Captain A. E. Hooker, Ninth Cavalry, with the available men of his Company, E, was ordered to scout the country to Yellow-bank Crossing of Devil's Run, thence across the country to South Kickapoo Springs, where he will report to Colonel George L. Andrews, Twenty-fifth Infantry. January 16, Colonel Andrews, accompanied by Lieutenant H. B. Quimby, regimental quartermaster, Twenty-fifth Infantry, Acting Assistant Surgeon D. Jackson, Captain D. Schorley and Lieutenant F. A. Kendall, Twenty-fifth Infantry, with Company E, Twenty-fifth Infantry, supplied with 21 days' rations, left on a scout to Old Fort Turret, via West Fort,

Nueces River. Lieutenant and Adjutant C. N. Gray, Twenty-fifth Infantry, to act as acting assistant quartermaster and acting commissary subsistence during the absence of Lieutenant Quimby. First Lieutenant J. Paulus, with Company C, was ordered to relieve First Lieutenant C. F. Robe, and Company H, in the work of opening the Fort Clark and Fort McKavett wagon road. Acting Assistant Surgeon A. L. Buffington, assigned to duty with Company C. January 20, First Lieutenant A. Geddes, was granted leave of absence for seven days with permission to apply for an extension of seven days.

#### MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

*Major-General Geo. G. Meade:* Headquarters, Philadelphia.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

*Brigadier-General Irvin McDowell:* Cor. Greene and Houston Sts. N. Y.

The following officers were registered at headquarters Department of the East, for the week ending March 14, 1872: Major R. I. Dodge, Third Infantry; Major Wm. Hays, Fifth Artillery; Colonel H. W. Wessells, U. S. Army.

*Governor's Island, N. Y. H.*—On Tuesday evening next the "Social Club" composed of enlisted men (permanent party) gave its first annual ball. The officers of the club are Michael Smith, president, John T. O'Brien, treasurer, James Morrissey, secretary. The steamer *Governor's Island* will leave the barge office (Battery) at eight, nine, and ten P. M., returning at five and six A. M.

*Fort McHenry, Md.*—The commanding officer Fort McHenry, Md., March 12, was directed to send an officer of his command to Fort Foote, with orders to report to the commanding officer of that post for temporary court-martial duty, and to remain there until the court-martial is dissolved by the commanding officer Fort Foote, when he will rejoin his proper station.

*David's Island, N. Y. H.*—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at David's Island, New York Harbor, on the 15th of March. Detail for the court: Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Wallen, Captains E. W. H. Read, G. M. Brayton; First Lieutenants Charles Porter, A. W. Corlies, E. B. Savage; Second Lieutenants C. A. Earnest, P. H. Ray, J. McE. Hyde, Eighth Infantry. Second Lieutenant John O'Connell, Eighth Infantry, judge-advocate.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE LAKES.

*Brigadier-General P. St. G. Cooke:* Headquarters, Detroit, Mich.

*Payment of Depot Troops.*—Paymaster H. C. Pratt, chief paymaster of the department, March 5, was directed to proceed to pay the troops at the following-named stations: Fort Porter, N. Y.; Fort Niagara, N. Y.; Fort Ontario, N. Y.; and Madison Barracks, N. Y.

Paymaster V. C. Hanna, U. S. Army, on the same date, was directed to proceed to and pay the troops at the following-named stations: Fort Gratiot, Michigan; Indianapolis Arsenal, Indiana; Fort Wayne, Michigan; and Columbus Arsenal, Ohio.

*Madison Barracks, N. Y. A.*—A General Court-martial met at Madison Barracks, N. Y., on the 11th instant. Detail for the court: Major H. C. Pratt, paymaster U. S. Army; Major C. L. Best, First Artillery; Assistant Surgeon C. S. DeGraw, U. S. Army; First Lieutenant E. Van A. Andrus, First Artillery; First Lieutenant John L. Worden, Jr., First Infantry; Second Lieutenant J. J. O'Connell, First Infantry. Second Lieutenant Carl F. Palfrey, First Artillery, is judge-advocate of the court.

#### MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

*Maj.-Gen. J. M. Schofield:* Headquarters, San Francisco, Cal.

The following officers reported at headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, during the week ending February 27, 1872: First Lieutenant T. J. Wint, Fourth Cavalry; Captain A. Sutorius, Third Cavalry; Captain Deane Monahan, Third Cavalry; A. A. Surgeon, H. M. Matthews, U. S. Army; First Lieutenant T. F. Riley, Twenty-first Infantry; A. A. Surgeon, W. O. G. Springer, U. S. Army; Second Lieutenant W. S. Wyatt, Third Cavalry.

##### DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

The General Court-martial which convened at Alcatraz Island, Cal., on February 8, by virtue of S. O. No. 19, c. s., headquarters Department of California, and of which Colonel O. B. Wilcox, Twelfth Infantry, was president and Captain E. R. Platt, Second Artillery, is judge-advocate, was dissolved February 27.

*Benicia Barracks, California.*—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Benicia Barracks, California, on the 16th instant. Detail for the court: Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Elliott, First Cavalry; Captains William Hawley, Frank Stanwood, Frederick Van Vliet, Alexander Moore, Gerald Russell, Dean Monahan and Alexander Sutorius, Third Cavalry; First Lieutenants William H. Andrews, Emmet Crawford, John P. Walker; Second Lieutenants Charles Morton, William W. Robinson, Jr., Third Cavalry; Captain Guy V. Henry, Third Cavalry judge-advocate.

##### DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

*Lieutenant-Colonel George Crook:* Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.

GENERAL HOWARD left Washington, March 7, for Arizona, taking Captain Wilkinson, of his staff, and Mr. E. P. Smith, one of the most trusted Indian agents in the service of the Indian Bureau.

*Twenty-first Infantry.*—Captain I. V. Furey, assistant quartermaster, January 19, relieved First Lieutenant J. L. Johnston, regimental quartermaster Twenty-first Infantry, in his duties at Tucson Depot, A. T., and the former officer returned to the headquarters of his regiment in the Department of the Columbia.

*Camp Date Creek, A. T.*—The quartermaster and commissary storehouse at Camp Date Creek, Arizona Territory, was totally destroyed by fire December 30, 1871. The flames spread with such rapidity that but few of the stores contained in the building were saved, and the loss to the Government is consequently large. A board of officers ascribed the cause of the fire to a defective chimney.

## THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movements of officers or vessels.

#### VARIOUS NAVAL MATTERS.

THE United States ship-of-war *Kansas* has returned to Key West.

THE American fleet was at Toulon, March 11, taking in coal.

THE President has sent to the Senate the nomination of Commodore Alfred Taylor to be Rear Admiral.

THE *Juniata*, now attached to the European squadron, has been ordered home, and will arrive here in June.

THE *Guerriere* arrived at Navy Yard, New York, March 13, from Norfolk, Va. She will go out of commission and her crew be discharged. Her officers will probably receive their orders about the 15th inst.

VISITORS to the Naval Academy have been appointed by the Secretary of the Navy as follows: Prof. William N. C. Bartlett, of New York; Colonel W. D. Wickham, of Mobile, and General Robinson, U. S. A.

THE British screw frigate, *Aurora*, thirty-five guns, while leaving Plymouth Sound, March 13 for Gibraltar, struck on Nicholas Reef. Tugs were at work trying to pull her off, and with prospects of success, as the tide was rising.

SENATOR AMES introduced a bill on last Tuesday providing "that the line-officers of the volunteer navy who were put up into the regular service shall take rank in their respective grades from July 25, 1866, and be entitled to the positions on the Navy Register that they would have occupied had their commission been so dated."

GENERAL Slocum has introduced in the House a bill authorizing the sale of the naval hospital at Brooklyn. The land is to be sold in whole or subdivisions at public auction, or by inviting written proposals, after three months' notice. The proceeds of the hospital and land are to be carried to the credit of the naval hospital fund, and the residue shall be covered into the Treasury.

THE bill introduced by Senator Cole, last month, in relation to the capture of the *Albemarle*, was reported back to the Senate from the Committee on naval affairs on Wednesday, the 6th, and passed. It provides "that the prize case of the rebel iron-clad man-of-war *Albemarle* shall be taken up and re-examined by the proper United States court, that the captors may obtain an appraisal such as is required by the prize laws of Congress."

MR. MORGAN'S bill to correct abuses in the navy, introduced into Congress, Monday, March 11, provides that the grades of admiral, vice-admiral, and rear admiral shall cease to exist when they shall become vacant; that no officer on the retired list shall, under any circumstances, be assigned to any duty whatever; prohibits promotions on the retired list, and abolishes the Marine Corps—the bill to take effect from the date of its approval.

ADMIRAL HAZA, of the Peruvian Navy, is now in New York, commissioned by the Peruvian Government to examine and study the fortifications, Navy-yards, Navy and ordnance of the United States; also to report on the merits of the different registers of shipping, known as Lloyd's books, and to make general inquiry into the maritime resources of this country. He has letters instructing the officers in charge of Navy-yards, etc., in the United States to offer him every facility in the discharge of his commission. From this country he goes to England, France, Prussia, etc., for a similar purpose.

THE Secretary of the Navy, March 13, ordered that *Iroquois*, now at New York, should join the East India squadron without delay, and that vessel will leave for her station via the Suez Canal. The United States steamer *Canandaigua*, at New York, and the *Wyoming*, at Hampton Roads, have also been ordered to proceed at once to the West India squadron. The *Pouhatan* and monitor *Canonius*, now at Philadelphia, have been ordered to rendezvous at Hampton Roads, and will ultimately strengthen the North Atlantic squadron. Rear Admiral William Rogers Taylor will relieve Rear Admiral Joseph Lanman in command of the South Atlantic fleet, and officers will shortly be detailed to relieve the officers and crew of the *Lancaster*, the flagship of that squadron.

In noticing and publishing the nine names of the cadet midshipmen recently appointed "at large" to the U. S. Naval Academy by the President, our correspondent at Washington, in common with others, reported that most of them are sons of officers of the Navy. This is a mistake, as only three of them, one-third, are sons of Naval officers, viz., Richard B. Steedman, Daniel R. Case, and Augustus C. Almy. Three others, George King, Thomas B. Maynadier, and George A. Maxwell, are sons of officers of the regular or volunteer Army, who rendered good service in the late rebellion. And three of them are sons of civilians who have performed good service for their country in a civil capacity, viz.: Templin M. Potts is the son of John Potts, Esq., who is now and has been for many years, chief clerk of the War Department. Henry A. Johnson is the son of the late Henry Johnson, Esq., for several years a clerk in State Department, and who died while U. S. chargé des affaires at Constantinople. Waldemar D. Rose is the son of a gentleman in civil life who has rendered good service to the Government. Thus it will be seen that the President in making these appointments has been perfectly impartial, recognizing alike the claims of the three branches of the Government service, viz.: Army, Navy, and Civil, choosing those who are not from any congressional district, and therefore cannot call upon a member of Congress to assist them in obtaining an appointment.

THE Washington Chronicle, of March 8, says that



Vice Admiral Rowan is recovering from his attack of pneumonia.

THE Russian fleet with the Grand Duke Alexis on board, sailed from Havana, March 12, for Rio de Janeiro. The forts and the vessels in the harbor fired a salute.

CHAPLAIN Jas. J. Kane, of the United States Navy, March 8, opened the United States Senate with prayer. This is the first time that a naval chaplain has ever officiated in the Senate. The President has recommended that the Chaplain be advanced a number of files for extraordinary heroism displayed during the rebellion.

VICE-ADMIRAL BOGGS, who left Washington to attend the funeral of his son, in New York, and then became quite ill, has so far recovered as to resume his duties as Naval Secretary of the Light-house Board.

THE *Guerrero*, which has been for some time at the Norfolk Navy Yard, sailed March 10 on her course to New York. The finding of the court-martial which tried Capt. Stevens for running the vessel upon a rock last summer in the Mediterranean Sea is now before the Secretary of the Navy for review, and will not be made public for some days.

A FIRE broke out in the receiving store of the Brooklyn Navy Yard about seven o'clock Saturday morning, March 9, and soon spread to the room occupied as a storage for paints, oils, and other combustible material. The loss on the building was \$250; that on the stock of paints, oils, and other material, \$1,000. The fire originated from hot-air pipes which were placed too near the woodwork.

A DESPATCH from Washington reports that Captain Potter, of the *Shamout*, is to be detached and placed on waiting orders. It will be remembered that instead of carrying out the orders of the Navy Department in protecting the *Florida* from the menaces of the Spanish war vessel *Balboa*, he preferred to take the word of the Spanish commander that the *Florida* would not be molested, and was deceived.

THE monitor *Mahopac*, lying at the dock at the Norfolk Navy Yard, took fire on the morning of March 10, in the wooden deck, from the galley pipe. Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting to the fire, which was not extinguished until a considerable part of the iron plating of the deck had been removed. The *Mahopac* had been ordered out of commission, and was to be taken into the dry dock in a few days to have her turret and deck removed. The damage, in view of this fact, is not considered serious.

ADMIRAL ENGELFELT, naval attaché of the British Legation, is still visiting places of interest to him in New York and vicinity. The Admiral was on the retired list for some time previous to his appointment to his present station, and therefore the memory of his deeds in the service has been in a great degree lost. He is, however, well known for his explorations in the Arctic region, whose important results brought him a gold medal from the Royal Geographical Society of England. He is a member and correspondent of that society, and will transmit all information of value to it that he may gain in this country.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Herald* writes from the United States steamer *Shenandoah*, off Villefranche, France, February 5, 1872: "In Mr. Disraeli's book 'Lothair' he is said to have described, as one of his characters, Monseigneur Capel—or, rather, that reverend gentleman is said to have furnished the invention of the writer with the original. It was, therefore, with no small degree of anxiety, not wholly unmixed with curiosity, that the announcement was received in the fleet that he was to preach before the crew of the flagship *Wabash*, this morning. M. Capel can certainly plume himself on his audience, for not an officer was absent who could be released from duty. Monseigneur Capel is the prime assistant of Archbishop Manning, of London, his residence being, as his card designates, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W. His reputation as a florid speaker was quite sustained. He is never at a loss for a word, and generally a good word, to express his meaning. His tone of voice is high in pitch and he speaks more rapidly than most divines, which renders it difficult to report him with accuracy. In appearance he is about the middle height, with a florid complexion, of spare build, a head of thick hair, shot with gray, perhaps forty-five years of age. His mouth is very mobile and very expressive, as is generally the case with a mouth in a face which is closely shaven. The tone of voice, before referred to, is peculiar. It leads the hearer to believe—provided he does not see the speaker—that he is praying when preaching, and preaching when praying. It may be described, therefore, as a prayerful monotone. He wore the canonicals of his Church in addressing the crew, and commenced with reading a selection from his prayer-book. He then took as his text the parable of the Prodigal Son, which he read with so slight an accent as to deceive any but the most practiced ears. The only deviations noticed were 'no-ledge' for knowledge and 'hi-red' for hired. His triumph over English is signal; so much so that it is said that he is English. But then he uses the French much too beautifully for that. It is an open question; but I lean to the side that he is more of French. He may be called Franco-English or Anglo-French."

THE *Saturday Chronicle*, Charleston, Mass., March 9, gives the following gossip about Navy-yard matters: "Owing to the extreme cold weather out-door work was suspended in the yard Tuesday and Wednesday, the first time suspension from such cause has occurred for three years. It is said that plans are being prepared for the erection of an additional story and French roof on the block of dwelling houses situated at the upper end of the Navy-yard, near the main gate. Work on the new iron torpedo boat will be commenced in a week or two, as soon as the proper tools can be procured. A portion of them are being made at this yard, and the heavy ones are to come from Portsmouth. At the Navy-yard,

Thursday afternoon, as Mr. Frank Delano, employed in the construction department, was engaged in assisting to take out a boat from the lower ship-house, he was injured severely by the boat falling upon him. He was conveyed to the yard dispensary, where he received surgical assistance, and was then taken to his home on School street. It was feared that some of his ribs were broken. Mr. Samuel Roulstone, the eminent gun carriage maker of the Navy-yard died at his residence on Tufts street last Sunday from cancer. He had been attached to the Ordnance Department for nearly twenty years. During our late war his position was one of great care and responsibility, and under his direction the productions of his department at the Navy-yard attained a high degree of excellence, becoming in many cases the recognized standards. As a citizen he was respected and esteemed by a large circle of friends and relations, and his death creates a void not easily filled. At present the total number of men on board the receiving ship *Ohio* is 398, of whom 196 are seamen, 133 ordinary seamen, and the balance boys, mechanics, etc. Secretary Robeson has issued a circular to the officers of this yard assigning them quarters in the following order: commandant, executive officer, naval constructor, engineer, equipment officer, ordnance officer, civil engineer, surgeon, paymaster, and the officer second to the executive officer. The commandant's residence is the large dwelling on Chelsea street near Adams street, and the houses of the four officers next in rank are at the lower end of the yard near Chelsea bridge. The block of dwellings near the main gate accommodates the rest of the officers. This order is based on the necessity for the constant presence of the officers near their respective stations and duty. At present three of the nine houses are occupied by warrant officers, who will be compelled to vacate and seek shelter outside, in case they are not detached. Mr. Seth Wilmarth, master mechanic in the machine department at the Navy-yard in Charlestown, sailed from New York for England on Saturday last, having been granted a six months' or one year's leave of absence, as he prefers, by the Navy Department. For some time past Mr. Wilmarth has been engaged in designing plans for more effective harbor defences, and has succeeded, it is claimed, in producing a model of a fort, which cannot but be of immense value to any country adopting it, in case of war. The plan of his fort, for such it is, was doubtless suggested by the iron-clad monitors, which in our late war did such valuable service, as it is what might be termed a monitor on land. It consists of a conical or hemispherical turret, made of iron of such thickness as to withstand the heaviest shot that can be thrown against it. There will be port-holes in it which can be closed with iron when the guns are being loaded, and is worked similar to the turrets on the monitors. Although the fort must be of immense and the guns in it of the heaviest calibre, still it is so arranged that with the aid of machinery the turret can be turned and the battery worked easily. Mr. Wilmarth is the inventor of the hydraulic lift for iron-clads to work their turrets, and also for some of the largest machinery used in the machine shop of this yard."

#### OUR SHIPPING INTERESTS.

ON the 13th of March, 1871, the United States Senate adopted a resolution directing the Secretary of the Navy "to communicate to the Senate such proposals, if any, as may have been made to him for establishing iron ship-building yards and docks, to economize expenditure in the Navy, and to aid in restoring commerce, with such explanations, suggestions, and recommendations as he may deem advantageous to the Government, in connection with that subject." In reply to this the Secretary placed before the Senate on the 14th of April the only proposals of this character which had then been received, and stated what seemed to be their advantages, promising at the same time to follow his report with suggestions of some system to be perfected by Congress for the establishment of lines of ocean steamers, adapted as far as may be for commerce in time of peace, and for a naval militia in time of war. In a report, dated Navy Department, March 4, 1873, presented to the House of Representatives March 13, Secretary Robeson redeems his promise of last year. The report, with the appendix accompanying, is too long for publication here entire, but, so much of it is occupied merely with argument, we are able to make space for all the suggestions it contains, by condensing the portion in which the Secretary endeavors to awaken Congress to that lively zeal for the promotion of our naval interests which our readers already feel.

The acquisition of California, he tells Congress, stimulated a demand for quicker sailing qualities in our vessels—a demand which was at once met by the American clipper ships, unequalled in speed and seagoing qualities by any foreign-built vessels. The advantage clipper ships gave us stimulated the building of screw vessels. The scarcity of ship timber led to the substitution of iron for these in the British ship-yards, but our occupation with the Rebellion has prevented us from availing ourselves of the improvements thus introduced, and has given England a temporary advantage—an advantage which we can speedily make good, if proper encouragement is given to our shipping interests. Under any adequate and sustained system of encouragement, steamers of reliable strength, as beautiful in form, as perfect in sea qualities and relative speed as were our clipper ships, would be produced as rapidly as proper and profitable routes could be determined upon, and thus the first movement for the restoration of commerce under our own flag would be securely made.

The Secretary says:

To this end we must, first of all, determine upon and provide the means of accomplishing this as cheaply as possible. The first step in this direction seems to be the creation of large and commodious building-yards, advantageously situated with reference to the ready and cheap supply of the great bulk of the necessary material, and so arranged as to unite in one establishment all the means and appliances required to convert this material, through all its necessary pro-

cesses and applications, into ships, under one organized system, single, direct, and harmonious, from the inception, and involving but one profit to the producer. Such establishments, of course, cannot be produced without some action on the part of the Government to encourage the necessary aggregation of capital and to secure its results to some extent in return for the national enterprise in which it is embarked. If, in addition to any aid given in this direction, Congress should also be willing, in order further to encourage the development and employment of our own resources, to give, for a limited term of years, a general return or bounty to the American shipbuilder and owner upon the American materials and articles used in the construction and outfit of ships of an amount equal to the duties upon light materials and articles if imported, it is obvious that a great impulse would be given to the manufacture and use of each article required, since if these duties now amount to prohibition on the use of foreign materials and articles, their amount would be a liberal measure of the encouragement necessary to put the American producer on an equality with his foreign competitor.

The use of such vessels must be properly directed and encouraged upon some consistent system in harmony with the laws of trade, and upon fixed routes, selected with reference to the use and development of our home resources and the opening, appropriating and securing of the most desirable foreign markets and sources of supply. Domestic trade cannot alone give power and greatness to a nation; if it could, China would be at the head of civilization. As full one-third of the human race contend that China is at the head of civilization, the Secretary forbears to disturb them further in this conceit, contenting himself with arguing at length to show the advantage of foreign commerce in developing the productive resources of a country. As cotton enters so largely into the commerce of Great Britain, the chief commercial country of the world, some interesting statistics of this staple are given as follows:

But little more than a century has elapsed since the weaving of cotton was commenced in England, and down to 1773 an entire cotton fabric had not been made; the warp, or transverse threads of the web only were of cotton, the warp, or longitudinal threads, were of linen yarn imported from Germany and Ireland. The weavers were dispersed in cottages throughout the country, furnished themselves with the wool and warp, and, when woven, carried them to market. Up to 1791 her entire supplies of raw cotton were derived from the East Indies. In that year 189,655 lbs. of cotton were received from the United States (the first ever shipped) and 28,513,020 lbs. from India.

In the same year the total imports and exports of Great Britain of all descriptions were:

Imports.....	\$95,347,87
And Exports.....	110,248,73
Making a total foreign commerce of.....	\$205,596,60
In 1898 her imports of cotton were (pounds).....	31,880,641
Her imports of all descriptions.....	\$135,110,78
Her exports of all descriptions.....	162,920,124
Making a total foreign commerce of.....	\$298,030,86
In 1818 her imports of cotton were (pounds).....	177,282,138
Her imports of all descriptions.....	\$173,849,89
And exports of all kinds.....	256,082,32
Making a total commerce of.....	\$429,932,21
In 1838, the advent of transatlantic steamships, the imports of cotton were (pounds).....	507,850,57
And the total imports of all kinds.....	\$290,412,68
The exports and re-exports.....	508,331,37
Making a total foreign commerce of.....	\$798,743,97

The impulse which the various lines of ocean steamers gave, had increased her manufactures so rapidly that in ten years thereafter, that is in 1848, her imports of cotton were 713,020,161 lbs. Of this, 600,247,488 lbs. came from the United States, and only 112,772,673 lbs. from all other sources.

Her imports of all descriptions reached.....	\$453,588,10
And her exports.....	732,500,96
Making a total foreign commerce of.....	\$1,185,888,06
In 1858 her imports of cotton were, from the United States, lbs.....	1,115,890,68
From all other sources.....	275,048,14
Making a total import of cotton of (pounds).....	1,390,938,82

The suspension of our exports of cotton during the war was a calamity so great in England that it was, and always will be known as "the cotton famine." The greatest exertions were made by associations and by the Government to create other sources of supply; but with the resumption of our cotton exports, one after another of these new sources have failed, from inability to compete in quality and price, and by this restored aid from us in the reproduction of our cotton the total foreign commerce of Great Britain amounted in the year 1869 to \$2,854,506,479, and according to the latest published statement, has reached in the present fiscal year the enormous sum of \$2,910,000,000. The aggregate of the world's commerce for the last fiscal year has been estimated at \$9,237,000,000, and it is thus seen that Great Britain enjoys about one-third in the amount of these vast transactions, and that her commerce has grown with her importation from us of cotton, and its manufacture and extension of sale through the means of rapid and cheap intercourse, created by the establishment of steamship lines upon routes which connected her main outposts with the chief commercial cities of the world.

So cotton is once more king, in spite of the "hemp crop." The Secretary gives this interesting account of the way in which the British shipping interests have been built up by the aid of Government interest and influence:

The experiment of using steamers for mail service was made by the British post-office as early as 1821, from Holyhead to Ireland, and from Dover to France; but it was not until 1833 that contracts were made with individuals or companies for other services.

In 1837 the first line to the Mediterranean was formed. In 1838 transatlantic steam communication was demonstrated, and established under contract with Cunard in the following year. In 1843 the East India and other lines were established, and so on to others. In 1854 the system was deemed nearly perfect. There had then been created fifteen different lines, ostensibly for mail purposes, but which really girdled the world with a commercial belt, requiring at the commencement 118 steamers, having an aggregate of upwards of 140,000 tons, and navigated by 8,137 mariners. The routes were so well chosen that the number of steamers



on nearly all have been doubled to meet the demands of commerce. These steamers have been built under inspection to suit them for naval purposes if required; and in the Crimean and East Indian wars they were called upon and performed most efficient naval service.

In expression of this policy it was declared as a principle by the British Government that the importance of an efficient system of ocean steam communication was not to be measured by the profit or loss which should directly attend it, but by the commercial prosperity and defensive power it would give the nation.

In an elaborate report of a treasury committee of Parliament it was declared "unreasonable to expect that any person or association of persons should incur the expense and risk of building steamers, forming costly establishments and opening new lines of communication at heavy outlay of capital, without some security or aid from the Government." In this spirit England made the contracts before referred to at a yearly expenditure for the service of \$5,158,316, and has paid since then in the aggregate to sustain it the sum of \$96,720,940.

Large as this outlay has been, the wisdom which inaugurated and continued the policy has been demonstrated by its wonderful success. When her manufacturing policy came into being, in 1791, her total commerce was but \$205,596,649. It had been increased at the time steamships assumed an important feature in its further progress, in 1838, to the amount of \$798,743,897, and by the successful subdivisions of labor in manufactures and the expansion of commercial markets made by these steamship lines it has reached, at the close of and for the last fiscal year, the sum of nearly three billion dollars.

Contrasting this with our own neglect of our commercial interests, and showing further what we can do and ought to do for them, the Secretary says:

The aggregate of our foreign commerce for the year 1870 was \$962,469,730. The aggregate of that of England in 1838, the period of commencing steam enterprise, was \$798,743,897. At that period England had all her elements of commerce ready, but required more rapid means of reaching and creating markets to make them a source of national wealth. Such is now our position.

We are more than one hundred and sixty-three millions of dollars by developed commerce in advance of what England was in 1838. We are proportionally much more in advance of what she was at that period in manufactures and arts, but we are in her position at that time in regard to markets and the means of reaching them.

She had recourse to the building of steamships, to the encouragement of her people in the formation of lines of steamers to distant foreign ports; but her co-ordinate departments of the government, the Admiralty, the Post-Office, and the Board of Trade, laid out and formed such routes and fixed upon such ports as seemed adapted to the objects sought. Parliament would not be confused by, nor have its time wasted upon, the discussion of fruitless and visionary schemes; but the well-digested plans of the departments were approved, and government aid to the extent of, as already stated, \$96,720,940 has been paid in the complete establishment of her commercial and mail lines of steamships, not from a single port, but from the main outposts of the country.

Routes should be selected with reference to our productions and their appropriate markets.

In view of these reflections it is respectfully suggested whether we may not, by some well-considered plan, establish, in aid of our industries, lines of ocean steam communication which will place American-built steamships upon leading commercial routes, making our Atlantic and our main Pacific ports the termini of such lines as shall be best adapted to develop the trade of the country which lies behind them.

In the formation of ocean steamship routes not only the present, but the future requirements of commerce should be well considered. Great steaming distance on any route should be guarded against by providing places of supply and coaling stations. Where favorably located, such stations might become centres of exchange, from which commerce would extend to our advantage, if depots for the reception and distribution of our products and manufactures should be secured by leases or treaty stipulations. Other steamship lines could then connect to interchange their mails, passengers, and cargoes, thus shortening the length of run and making, with fewer steamers and less costly outlay, a more perfect circle and more frequent and profitable voyages. By such facilities the manufactures and products gathered at each of our home ports would reach diversified and greater markets.

Should free ports be selected as the interchanging depots or stations, a concentration thereof of our products and of the foreign products to be received in exchange would naturally result.

What we had sent and that which was to come thence to us would be borne by a single and cheaper means, the profits of the carriage in each case resulting to us, and the duties to be collected on the imports or return cargoes would probably repay the amount of outlay by the Government in any scheme which may be adopted.

In this manner commerce, divested of many of its burdens, would yield none the less to the revenues of the country, while its lessened cost would rapidly increase the national wealth.

By this plan, for illustration, a single depot in the Mediterranean might place any one of the Atlantic cities in direct connection and exchange with the ports of Spain, the south of France, Italy, Austria, Turkey, Morocco, Tunis, Tripoli, Arabia, Persia, and nearly all the East Indies.

Another favorably-located depot in the West Indies would serve as a receiving and distributing point for exchanges with each of the islands of the Caribbean Sea (or West Indies), as well as for Colombia, Venezuela, Guiana, Brazil, Uruguay, and the Argentine Republic.

To this one central depot any or all of our Atlantic cities could establish steam lines which, beside placing any one or more of these cities in connection with the others in coast line voyages, would enable each to participate in the direct commerce of the West India Islands, and the whole east coast of South America.

Another depot properly located on the American isthmus would, if these cities extended the voyages of their same steamers thereto, place each city in almost direct trade with the west coast of South America, the west coast of North America, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean.

Our geographical position, by which we command access to the two great oceans and to the populations of both Europe and Asia, with inter-continental railway transits, enable us, by the use of means at our disposal, to increase the markets for our surplus productions almost without limit.

The chief lines are set forth in their order and connection in the

appendix, which he thinks should be gradually established into service as our industrial resources expand from the initiation of the system by lines of present necessity. This present necessity imperatively demands, the Secretary thinks, the immediate creation of the following lines, to rescue and protect our American interests:

1. The Mexican Gulf Line.
2. The Pacific Island Line.
3. The Queenstown and Liverpool line.
4. The Galway and Glasgow line.
5. The Southampton, Vlissingen and Antwerp line.
6. The Lisbon, Cadiz and Gibraltar line.

These form only a part of the general system of commerce which would encircle the world, and to the development of which system their establishment is necessary.

#### OUR PACIFIC INTERESTS.

In regard to the development of our interests on the Pacific, he says:

Those lines which our people have already established should, of course, be included in any system, and should be fostered to the extent necessary to sustain them and to extend their accommodation to meet the growing wants of the commerce which they opened.

Our interests on the Pacific coast are growing every year more and more important and diversified. They embrace already nearly every form and variety of production, so that even now they include all the elements necessary to constitute a great agricultural, manufacturing and commercial nation. This most wonderful achievement of modern progress has found expression in the establishment of steam lines across the Pacific Ocean, and of coast lines from San Francisco to the north and south. It is impossible not to see that a people so orderly, energetic and powerful will at an early day require and must have largely increased facilities of ocean steam transportation. Nor can we over estimate the great importance and value to them and to us of their future commercial intercourse with the people of the east. The relaxation of the ancient non-intercourse policy of these people, deep-seated in theoretic notions of government, I attribute in some degree to the industrial achievements of our people on the Pacific side of the Continent. These interesting events, which have marked a distinctive era in our history, have fairly won the good offices of the government to promote the well-doing of a people who have added so much to the national wealth and honor.

Their commercial needs are, in their nature, of an imperious character. United to the older communities of the nation at best by exceptional means of transit, the Pacific States are thrown back upon their own resources and upon such relief as may be found in their trade with the Indies. Their productions, increasing from day to day, have forced the opening of new markets across an ocean twice as broad as the Atlantic. If the past is permitted to speak for the future, the extent of that trade, properly fostered, within the next half a century can hardly be estimated.

#### THE FORM OF AID PROPOSED.

With a reference to this point, the report concludes as follows:

Having adopted and designated the routes to which it is most desirable to open our commerce, the government should extend its aid to establish and maintain them upon some fixed plan, well considered in the light of the world's experience, well guarded in respect of the interest and security of the government, but sufficiently liberal to insure ultimate success.

The form of aid suggested—namely, either by a direct advance of money or of government bonds, or the guarantee by the United States of bonds of the companies to a fair amount of the capital required for each line. This last is urged as the best form of aid, as it would simplify, while it rendered it more effective, by giving a greater stimulus to each company to work out its own success, and with such a security and example, not only individuals, but States and municipalities to be directly benefited, will be encouraged to embark their money or their credit in these great national enterprises.

Analogous action has already been taken by the General and by State governments in aid of railroad enterprises of great national value.

In addition to this assistance contracts should of course be given to our own ships to carry our own mails.

Should Congress adopt any such commercial system as is here suggested the six lines mentioned as immediately necessary would require about thirty steamships to perform the service with promptness. They would probably cost from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

The expenditure of this large amount would give employment and individual prosperity not only to those engaged in shipbuilding, but to all others in incident mechanic arts, and would not, with all the great outlay in addition necessary to the first establishment of routes, exceed the cost of a single year's American transportation paid by our people to foreign steamship lines.

#### STATIONS OF OFFICERS OF THE MARINE CORPS.

Headquarters Washington, D. C.—Brigadier-General J. Zeilin, commandant; Major W. B. Slack, quartermaster; Major A. B. Nicholson, adjutant and inspector; Major J. C. Cash, paymaster; First Lieutenant W. B. Remey, First Lieutenant G. C. Heid, aide-de-camp to commandant; First Lieutenant D. P. Mannix, Marine Barracks.—Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. McCawley, Captain J. F. Baker, First Lieutenant A. S. Taylor, Second Lieutenants E. McCawley, D. Whipple, W. F. Zeilin.

Navy-yard.—Captain G. W. Collier, First Lieutenants C. F. Williams, M. C. Goodell.

Insane Asylum.—Captain W. H. Parker.

New York.—Captain James Wiley, assistant quartermaster; Second Lieutenant A. Palmer, assistant quartermaster's office.

Marine Barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y.—Major J. L. Broome, Captain C. A. Stillman, First Lieutenants E. P. Meeker, C. L. Sherman, F. H. Harrington, R. L. Meade, Second Lieutenants W. B. Schenck, H. C. Fisher.

Receiving Ship Vermont.—Captain H. A. Bartlett, Second Lieutenant E. P. Bradford.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Captain W. A. T. Maddox, assistant quartermaster; Captain W. R. Brown, assistant quartermaster's office; Major T. Y. Field, Captain J. Forney, Recruiting Rendezvous.

Marine Barracks.—Colonel M. R. Kintzing, Captains L. L. Dawson, H. B. Lowry, First Lieutenants L. E. Fagan, H. C. Cochran, R. R. Neill, Second Lieutenants A. H. O'Brien, J. D. Smyser.

Marine Barracks, Boston.—Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Jones, Captain F. Munroe, First Lieutenant G. M. Welles, Second Lieutenant R. D. Weinwright.

Receiving Ship Ohio.—First Lieutenant L. P. French, Second Lieutenant J. H. Sherburne.

Marine Barracks, Portsmouth, N. H.—Major James Lewis, First Lieutenant G. B. Haycock, Second Lieutenants F. F. Ela, G. F. Elliott.

Marine Barracks, Annapolis, Md.—Captain P. B. Fendall, First Lieutenants J. M. T. Young, E. R. Robinson, R. S. Collum.

Marine Barracks, Norfolk, Va.—Captain C. Heywood, First Lieutenant N. L. Nokes, Second Lieutenants S. W. Quackenbush, F. Scott.

Marine Barracks, Pensacola, Fla.—Captain C. D. Hebb, First Lieutenant H. H. Coston, Second Lieutenant O. C. Berryman.

Marine Barracks, Mars Island, Cal.—Major G. R. Graham, First Lieutenant A. B. Young, Second Lieutenant H. G. Ellsworth.

U. S. Steamer Worcester.—Captain G. Butler, Second Lieutenant S. H. Gibson.

U. S. Steamer Wabash.—Captain G. P. Houston, Second Lieutenant B. R. Russell.

U. S. Steamer Colorado.—Captain McL. Tilton, Second Lieutenant W. J. McDonald, Jr.

U. S. Steamer Lancaster.—Captain R. W. Huntington, Second Lieutenant S. Mercer.

U. S. Steamer California.—Captain P. C. Pope.

U. S. Steamer Pensacola.—First Lieutenant H. J. Bishop.

U. S. Steamer Guerriere.—First Lieutenant W. W. Wallace.

U. S. Steamer Brooklyn.—First Lieutenant W. S. Muse.

U. S. Steamer Michigan.—First Lieutenant J. H. Washburn.

U. S. Steamer Congress.—First Lieutenant J. D. Webster.

U. S. Steamer Alaska.—First Lieutenant J. B. Brees.

U. S. Steamer Commodore.—First Lieutenant A. L. Watson.

U. S. Steamer Pouchatan.—First Lieutenant J. C. Morgas.

U. S. Steamer Benicia.—Second Lieutenant F. A. Mallory.

U. S. Steamer Plymouth.—Second Lieutenant C. P. Porter.

U. S. Steamer Canandaigua.—Second Lieutenant S. K. Allen.

U. S. Steamer Shenandoah.—Second Lieutenant S. A. Kelton.

U. S. Steamer Wachusett.—Second Lieutenant G. C. Goodloe.

U. S. Steamer Saranac.—Second Lieutenant R. Wallach.

U. S. Steamer Juniata.—Captain F. H. Corrie.  
U. S. Steamer Constellation.—Second Lieutenant W. B. Slack.  
U. S. Steamer St. Mary's.—Second Lieutenant J. C. Shailer.  
Fleet Marine Officer Pacific Fleet.—Captain J. H. Higbee.

#### NAVY GAZETTE.

##### REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

###### ORDERED.

MARCH 6.—Lieutenant-Commander A. S. Crowninshield, to ordnance duty at the Navy-yard, Boston.  
Ensigns E. J. Berwind, W. E. B. Delahay, W. P. Day, and Clinton R. Curtis, to the Powhatan.

First Assistant Engineer James P. Sprague, to the Iroquois.

MARCH 7.—Master Jerome B. House, to the Iroquois.

MARCH 8.—Chief Engineer Wm. J. Lamin, to the Navy-yard, Pensacola.

Carpenter S. N. Whitehouse, and Acting Sailmaker Thomas S. Gray, to the Constellation.

###### DETACHED.

MARCH 6.—Lieutenant James G. Eaton, from the Navy-yard, Boston, and ordered to the Powhatan.

Assistant Surgeon Paul Fitzsimons, from the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, and ordered to the Saranac.

Assistant Surgeon R. A. Marmion, from the Saranac, and ordered to return home.

Assistant Surgeon Abel F. Price, from the Juniata, and granted six months' leave, with permission to remain in Europe.

MARCH 7.—Commander James H. Gillis, from the command of the Mahopac, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant-Commander George W. Wood, Lieutenant John S. Newell, First Assistant Engineers Arthur Price, G. M. L. MacCarthy, B. C. Gowing, and Second Assistant Engineer C. J. Habighorst, from the Mahopac, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenants John C. Rich and Edward H. Green, from the Mahopac, and ordered to the receiving ship New Hampshire.

Assistant Surgeon F. R. Bieley, from the Mahopac, and ordered to the Naval Hospital, Norfolk.

Assistant Paymaster Jos. T. Addicks, from the Mahopac, and ordered to settle accounts.

Ch. of Engineer George F. Kutz, from League Island, and ordered to the Pensacola.

Chief Engineers George J. Barry, from the Pensacola, and placed on sick leave.

First Assistant Engineer W. W. Heaton, from the Mahopac, and ordered to the Navy-yard, Norfolk.

Boatswain Charles Johnson, from the Navy-yard, New York, and ordered to the receiving ship New Hampshire.

MARCH 8.—Lieutenant-Commander F. K. Smith, from the Iroquois, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant-Commander John H. Rowland, from the Navy-yard, Portsmouth, N. H., and ordered to the Iroquois.

Second Assistant Engineer Geo. C. Driver, from the Osceola, and placed on sick leave.

MARCH 9.—Gunner Cecil C. Nell, from the Navy-yard, Norfolk, and ordered to the Constellation.

Gunner James Hutchinson, Carpenter James H. Owens, and Sailmaker John J. Stanford, from the Constellation, and placed on waiting orders.

MARCH 11.—Captain J. B. Creighton, from the command of the Guerriere, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant-Commanders F. E. Chadwick and John F. McGlensey, Masters Duncan Kennedy and George W. Tyler, Midshipmen George W. Meitz, Samuel L. Graham, Corwin F. Rice, Wm. G. Mayers, Landon P. Jonett, F. H. Crosby, H. F. Fickbalm, and C. F. Emmerick, Surgeon Philip S. Wales, Passed Assistant Surgeon H. M. Rundlett, Assistant Surgeon John C. Wise, Assistant Paymaster Wm. T. Stevenson, Chief Engineer John H. Long, First Assistant Engineers Wilson K. Purse and Rudolph T. Bennett, Boatswain Philip J. Miller, Gunner Edward J. Waugh, Carpenter George E. Anderson, and Sailmaker Jos. C. Bradford, from the Guerriere, and placed on waiting orders.

Masters Frederick M. Wise and John F. Meiz, from the Guerriere, and ordered to examination for promotion.

Pay Inspector C. P. Wallach, from the Guerriere, and ordered to settle accounts.

#### LIST OF DEATHS.

In the Navy of the United States which have been reported to the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Navy and chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the week ending March 9, 1872:

William H. Dana, commander, March 5, Naval Hospital, Chelsea.

John King, landsman, February 22, Naval Hospital, New York.

Anthony Harman, beneficiary, February 28, Naval Hospital, Philadelphia.

#### CHANGES IN THE MARINE CORPS.

The following are the changes in the officers of the Marine Corps since last memoranda, viz:

MARCH 6.—Second Lieutenant John D. Smyser, granted leave of absence for thirty days from date.

MARCH 9.—First Lieutenant William Wallace, upon the transfer of the Guerriere's marine guard to barracks, ordered to proceed to Boston, Mass., and report for duty at Marine Barracks.

#### MILITARY ORDER, LOYAL LEGION.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE }  
MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON, March 7, 1872. }

At a stated meeting of this commandery held at the Parker House, School street, on Wednesday evening, March 6, the following-named candidates were duly elected companions of the Order of the first class: Lieutenant Horace McMurtrie, late United States Navy, Boston Highlands. Captain John H. Roberts, late Second Maine Cavalry Veteran Volunteers, Boston. Captain Clifton A. Blanchard, late Company B, Thirty-fifth Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry, Chelsea, Mass. Captain Theodore S. Peck, late assistant quartermaster U. S. Volunteers, First Brigade, Third Division, Twenty-fourth Army Corps; Ninth Vermont Volunteers Infantry, Burlington, Vt. Brevet Colonel Charles B. Fox, late lieutenant-colonel Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry, Boston. Captain Daniel W. Lee, late Twenty-ninth Massachusetts Volunteers, Boston.

THE Massachusetts Commandery gave their annual reception at the Parker House, Boston, on the evening of March 6. Among those present were General H. W. Benham and staff, General Theo. D. Ellis, of Hartford, in charge of the fortifications on the Connecticut river; General William Cogswell, General G. H. Gordon, General Luke Lyman, General Lee, of Springfield, General Faine, General John H. Reed, General Donaldson, General F. A. Osborne, General Underwood, Lieutenant-Governor Tucker, Judge Russell, and Major Jones. After spending an hour in interchanging greetings, the company sat down to supper, General Devens, commander, presiding. There was a happy absence of speech-making, and so all enjoyed themselves to the full. The following were the committee of arrangements: Charles Devens, Jr., brevet major-general U. S. Volunteers; William Cogswell, brevet brigadier-general U. S. Volunteers; William V. Hutchings, lieutenant-colonel U. S. Volunteers; O. E. Michaelis, captain U. S. Army; William Pratt, captain U. S. Volunteers; Charles A. Phillips, brevet major U. S. Volunteers; James B. Bell, brevet major U. S. Volunteers.



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jor-General G. G. Meade, U. S. Army, Philadelphia; General Hart-  
man Bache, U. S. Army, Philadelphia; Brigadier-General I. N.  
Palmer, U. S. Army, Omaha, Neb.; Brigadier-General L. P. Gra-  
ham, U. S. Army, San Francisco, Cal.; Brigadier-General Wm.  
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**A NEW YORK** daily paper having preferred some ri-  
diculous charges of official irregularities against Secre-  
tary Robeson, the matter was taken up in the House of  
Representatives, when the charges were not thought  
worth notice. The next day the subject was again in-  
troduced by reading the following letter from the Secre-  
tary:

NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, March 8, 1872.  
HON. N. P. BANKS, House of Representatives:—  
DEAR SIR—I see by the *Globe* that a resolution has been offered  
for the appointment of a committee to investigate the management  
of the Navy Department, and that you felt it to be your duty, under  
the circumstances, to object to its consideration. Of course I cannot  
pretend to dictate the action of members of the House, but I  
think it right to say to you that if any allegation of wrong is made  
or suggested from any respectable source against the Navy De-  
partment or myself I shall be glad to have an investigation ordered,  
as this seems to be the only means of defence and justification at  
the command of a public officer who is attacked. Therefore, while  
I do not seek to control your ideas of official duty, I shall be glad  
if you would either renew the motion yourself or withdraw your  
objection should it be made by any one else. Very truly yours,  
GEO. M. ROBESON, Secretary of the Navy.

The investigation was accordingly ordered, and is in  
progress.

COLONEL William R. Roberts, member of Congress  
from the Fifth district of New York, has tendered a ca-  
detship to the only son of the late General Thomas  
Francis Meagher, and the young man has arrived in New  
York to enter the Military Academy at West Point. He  
previously declined the nomination, but accepts it from  
Colonel Roberts, this being the desire of many of his  
father's friends.

## U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

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the postal authorities to be virtually an absolute protection against losses  
by mail. All postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever re-  
quested to do so.

#### STATE JURISDICTION OVER ENLISTMENTS.

ON the 4th of March the United States Supreme  
Court at Washington rendered a decision con-  
curred in by all the judges except the Chief Justice,  
in the case of ABLEMAN v. BOOTH (21 Howard's  
U. S. Rep., 506), to instances of detention under  
military or naval laws, and decides finally that an  
Army or Naval officer, holding in the service of the  
United States a soldier, sailor or marine, under an  
enlistment paper, or for other cause *prima facie* valid  
under the laws of the United States, is, in so doing,  
acting under the authority of the United States,  
whose courts can alone revise or control his official  
acts. The Supreme Court, however, remark that Uni-  
ted States officers to whom a writ of *habeas corpus* is  
issued by a State judge, should make return to it,  
stating that the person is held under color of au-  
thority of the United States, and decline to pro-  
duce him, at the same time apprising the State judge  
of the enlistment, desertion, or other cause of de-  
tention, under the laws of the United States.

The case on which this decision has been render-  
ed, originated in Madison, Wisconsin, in August,  
1869, before a State court commissioner, on the pe-  
tition of ABIJAH TARBLE that his son EDWARD TAR-  
BLE, alias FRANK BROWN, only seventeen years old,  
had been enlisted in July, without his consent, into  
the United States service by Lieutenant H. A.  
STONE, recruiting officer, and that he was  
entitled to the care and services of his son.  
The State judge therefore issued a writ of *habeas*  
*corpus* commanding the officer to produce the sol-  
dier before him. Lieutenant STONE, by local coun-  
sel, made return pleading to the jurisdiction, and  
setting forth the regularity of the enlistment of the  
soldier, who had taken the oath of allegiance and  
subsequently deserted and been apprehended, and  
was then in custody awaiting trial by Court-martial.  
The court, however, enforced the production of  
the soldier, and the father traversed the return, al-  
leging that his son had been enticed into his pre-  
tended enlistment, and that, as he was not lawfully  
in the Army, he could not be deemed a deserter.  
After a hearing, in which it appeared that the recruit  
had never received any pay or clothing, nor sworn  
to his age, the State judge ordered his discharge.

First Lieutenant A. B. GARDNER, First Artillery,  
was then ordered, by Government, to Wisconsin and  
appealed the case in September, 1869, by writ of  
*certiorari* to the full bench of the Supreme Court of  
that State, but on the subsequent argument in Janu-  
ary, 1870, not being present, the United States Dis-  
trict Attorney argued the case and it was decided  
adversely to Government, on a close division.  
Again it was taken up by writ of error to the  
United States Supreme Court and argued by Solic-  
itor-General BRISTOW. Printed briefs were submit-

ted by him, and by Mr. GARDNER, also an attorney  
in that court, and the final decision is as stated.

It is impossible to fully estimate the importance of  
this case to the military and naval services. For  
seventy-five years State judges of all degrees and  
kinds, exercised the writ unquestioned, often im-  
peding and obstructing military operations, until  
at last so great became the abuse of this high pre-  
rogative of liberty, that, when the Rebellion broke  
out, and thousands of young men offered their much  
needed services, Congress was compelled to suspend  
it. During the war of 1812, the same difficulty was  
experienced, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massa-  
chusetts, which State was then politically opposed  
to the war, going even to the extent of taking duly  
sentenced military offenders out of the Army, on  
pleas of minority. That war, and the Mexican war,  
added new decisions against Government in the Su-  
preme Courts of New Hampshire, New York, New  
Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Subsequently,  
when the writ of *habeas corpus* was restored in 1866,  
Mr. GARDNER was called upon to defend a large  
number of cases in New York and other States, and  
frequently where commissioned officers were im-  
prisoned for contempt of court in declining to obey  
State writs beyond a respectful return. Pre-  
serving the question on constitutional grounds,  
and in the light of the United States Supreme Court  
decision of 1858, induced favorable decisions in the  
New York Supreme Court and other State Courts,  
as well as in several of the United States District  
Courts, and has led to the final settlement of this  
heretofore perplexing question.

We may have occasion hereafter to advert to this  
subject, and shall publish the opinion of the Su-  
preme Court so soon as the full text is received.  
Meanwhile we cannot too highly commend the in-  
valuable service Lieutenant GARDNER has rendered  
the Army, in this and in similar cases. Those who  
have had occasion to avail themselves of the aid he  
has rendered, under the direction of the War De-  
partment, are aware of the amount of conscientious  
research, of legal acumen and of patient fidelity to  
trust that this young officer has brought to the de-  
termination of legal questions, which involve the ef-  
ficiency if not the very existence of the Army. Just  
in proportion as we feel disposed to criticize officers  
whose chief experience in Army life is the experi-  
ence of its vices, are we glad to commend the exam-  
ple of those whose pride of profession leads them to  
such unstinted and uncalculating endeavors to  
advance the best interests of the service with which  
they are identified.

We republish from the *Army and Navy Gazette*  
of London a brief synopsis of the report of the  
committee assembled to consider the details of the  
new scheme for British army organization. The  
speech of Mr. CARDWELL in the House of Commons,  
the minute of the Commander-in-Chief, and this re-  
port of four experienced officers upon the details of  
the scheme, are for Americans the most interesting  
discussion of military affairs that has appeared for a  
long while. The war in France thoroughly demon-  
strated what was clear enough before—that the  
Prussians have devised a scheme for raising the ef-  
ficiency of men in the field to a practical climax.  
Frenchmen may claim that there was fatality in  
their misfortune, that they were fore-ordained to  
defeat, but whatever may be said of the German  
mistakes and of critical days that might have turned  
the flood tide of their success if they could have  
been seized by the French, it is certain that the  
campaign was marked on the German side by an in-  
dividual efficiency on the part of each combatant  
that was simply astonishing. That exhibition is  
generally acknowledged to be the result of a train-  
ing in time of peace which was of the most practi-  
cal character, and it is this training which the En-  
glish are now striving to provide for their army.

The most striking thing in the English scheme is  
the adherence to voluntary instead of enforced ser-  
vice. It was evident from the first that this course  
must be followed, and the new scheme, though of a  
sweeping nature, confines itself to adopting the Prus-  
sian system of depot distribution and to providing  
for more careful training of the troops. Finally  
this is to be accomplished not only without increas-  
ed expense, but with a saving after the cost of the  
first moves has been met.



Thus, after mature consideration and some experiment, the war officers have been able to adapt the excellent Prussian depot system to the requirements of the British army. Changes so important could not, in a country governed as England is governed, be undertaken without consulting the people, and what other nations have done by a simple imperial decree, the English have accomplished through Parliamentary discussion. Under such circumstances any marked increase of expense was necessarily to be avoided, and we may estimate the opinion of Englishmen upon the necessity of the reform when we see them deliberately alter their traditional colonial policy for its sake of the reform. Among the more important changes which the British have effected in their army management within a few years, is that of calling upon the colonies to trust more to their own resources than they have been accustomed to do. The plan is to keep one-half of the regulars abroad, and one-half at home. Mr. CARDWELL was able to tell his hearers, that although there was now a far larger effective force than the country was in the habit of maintaining in time of peace, the estimates were £1,115,700 less than for the last year. This surprising combination of results had been obtained through the policy of bringing home troops from the colonies, and maintaining them at less cost for home defence; and to a more rigid construction of the pecuniary responsibilities of the colonies.

It will be seen, from the foregoing, how strongly England was disposed to the radical reorganization of her army, and how ready her ministers were to sacrifice an old and important line of policy for the sake of the new regime. We on this side of the Atlantic are not pressed by the same urgency; but if ever we do make an effort to maintain armies for instruction during peace almost equal to those found for service in war, the example and method of the British will be particularly useful to us.

#### RUIN OF AMERICAN COMMERCE.

THE reply of the Secretary of the Navy to the request of the Senate for suggestions upon the subject of restoring our ocean commerce, is a thoughtful discussion of the question, which ought to be printed by Congress for general distribution. Pointing to the wonderful success which had accompanied all our labors in ship-building and navigation for so many years, he traces the interruption of that success to the fact that a radical change in ship architecture—the use of iron—was made just at the time when we were absorbed in maintaining our national life. We should be more disposed to charge our misfortune to the breaking up of American lines of commerce by the hazards of war, combined with the failure of our Government to supply adequate relief to the ship-building interest immediately the war was over. Broken up lines are not easily re-established, especially with the high prices that prevail after a great war. But the Secretary properly gives little attention to the cause, and a great deal to the remedy of our trouble. This he finds by likening our case in 1870 to that of England in 1838, the date when steamships began to take a lead in the world's commerce. At that time her foreign commerce amounted to \$799,000,000. Ours in 1870, was \$963,000,000. \$96,720,940 has been contributed to the complete establishment of her commercial and mail lines of steamships, not from a single port, but from all the main outlets of the country.

The Secretary recommends a similar, if not so great, an expenditure, to our rulers, and not confining himself to the question of subsidies alone, he urges Congress, besides aiding existing American lines, to hold out inducements for the establishment of a chain of American lines all round the world. This encouragement to merchants is not the whole of his scheme. He points to the necessity for the establishment of ship-yards for iron ships at proper points, and thinks the Government ought in some way to aid those who are willing to embark in the work. Thus the recommendations of the Secretary are threefold: subsidies to lines new and old, mail contracts with American lines, aid to iron ship-builders.

We have little doubt that a thorough scheme such as that proposed in this report, would accomplish the object sought, and also that, instead of being a charge upon the country, it would within ten

or twenty years bear immense pecuniary fruits. We have seen it stated lately that the commerce of the United States was worth to the English a yearly profit of seventy to eighty million dollars. If an expense of five millions a year by the Government will bring about the re-instatement of American merchants in the partial control of a commerce so immense, there can be no doubt that the public treasury would very quickly receive its own again, and with interest.

It is commonly believed that Congressmen think there is a prejudice among Americans against subsidies, but we are sure that the prejudice named does not exist. The prosperity of American commerce is looked upon as an object dear to American pride; and the opinion is constantly advanced by thinking men that our commerce will never recover its proper position without Government aid. We believe that we do not misrepresent the nation's representatives when we say that they harbor a dislike to seeing one man or company of men rising in private wealth by the aid of public money. But even that is a wrong view of the subject. The private gain really bears no comparison to the public advantage. What is the wealth of the CUNARDS beside the profit England has reaped from the famous line of steamers that family founded with the help of the Government? Although England apparently assumed only responsibilities without hope of return, she is really the chief sharer in the profits of the enterprise.

We hope that the comprehensive scheme of Secretary ROBESON—a scheme in which the very comprehensiveness is an element of strength and a promise of success—will receive careful attention. The tardy recovery of our commerce since the war has forced upon the people the conviction that positive measures are necessary, and we think that the subsidy party in Congress has yearly grown stronger. Prolonged discussion and delay only strengthen the hands of our rivals, and we trust that Congress will hasten to take up the cause of American commerce—cause that, sooner or later, is certainly destined to enforce attention. From the tone of the debates, however, we doubt if our representatives will do more than lend a helping hand to those lines which are striving for the vast trade of the Pacific.

THE examination into the sale of arms during the French war cannot be said to have thus far proved unfavorable to the Government. Somewhat of a sensation was made by the receipt of the following telegram, which makes serious inroads into the stability of Mr. SUMNER's preamble:

PARIS, March 12, 1872.

Richardson, care Remington, Ilion, N. Y.

Mr. Sumner was deceived when stating committee of French National Assembly on war contracts adopted resolutions asking results of inquiry from the United States Government about sales of arms. I have been repeatedly told by most influential members of this committee that no inquiry has passed nor thought of. Make of my declaration what use you choose.

HENRY MOREAU, Advocate, Paris.

The main points developed were that a dispatch announcing the fact that REMINGTON & Sons were agents for the French government, was received half an hour before the opening of the bids October 12, and Secretary BELKNAP immediately ordered the postponement of the sale, and prohibited all future sales to REMINGTON & Co. That firm at once secured the secret services of SCHUYLER, HARTLEY & GRAHAM, AUSTIN, BALDWIN & Co., and HERMAN BOKER & Co., and other rivals in the arms trade so that they were still able to purchase of the Government. Inquiries were set on foot by Colonel CRISPIN, of the Ordnance Department, about RICHARDSON, which resulted in the assurance that he was not a French agent, though it now appears he was acting for the REMINGTONS. The sales were conducted precisely as at all former times. Colonel BENET, of the Ordnance Department, testified that there was no depletion of military supplies, but, on the contrary, according to the official statement made within two or three weeks, there are now on hand 355,378 new Springfield rifles, calibre fifty-eight, and with other arms an army of 450,000 men could be supplied; and at the end of thirty days 100,000 breech-loaders could be turned out a month. This does not take into account some 80,000 arms in the hands of the militia. The alleged monetary discrepancies were proved by the Secretary of the Treasury not to exist. The Senate Committee has

examined Secretary BELKNAP, General DYER, Colonel BENET, and Mr. SQUIRES, of the Remington Company. The House committee has had before it the Secretary of the Treasury, Colonel CRISPIN, Mr. McNALLY, chief clerk of the Ordnance Department, and Colonel BENET.

Another week we shall show conclusively that these sales of arms were made in strict conformity with both international and municipal law. The mere purchase at a neutral port of munitions of war, for use only in the country of the belligerent, and shipment to the port of the belligerent in a merchant vessel not adapted in whole or in part to cruising purposes, and without ability to resist search, seizure, or capture, is a lawful trade, and the laws of nations do not and never have interfered with such commercial dealings.

ELSEWHERE we refer to the illness of Captain Wm. J. GOODWIN, of the retired list of the Army. A later despatch announces that this officer died in Concord, N. H., March 12, at 4 o'clock. He was born in Limington, Me., in the year 1823, was graduated at Bowdoin College in the class of 1848, and was appointed first lieutenant of the Sixteenth Infantry 14th May, 1861. He was brevetted captain for gallant conduct at the battle of Chickamauga, May 14, 1864, in which battle he was severely wounded and was afterwards promoted to the full grade. Captain GOODWIN was distinguished for his antiquarian and historical researches, and was a large contributor to the *Historical Magazine*. He was the author of several historical works, among which was a history of Buxton, Maine, and a work on the Constitution of New Hampshire.

THE question of the legality of certain appointments in the Quartermaster-General's and the Inspector-General's Departments made by President Johnson, under the Army re-organization act of 1866, was settled as far as the Senate is concerned on Wednesday, March 6, by the passage of a bill authorizing the President to nominate, and by and with the advice of the Senate to appoint, certain officers of those departments to the positions they would have held in the department had the law of promotions by seniority been carried out under the act of July 28, 1866, to March 3, 1869; and providing that no officer is to be deprived of his position or reduced from his present grade by the bill, nor is any pay or allowance to be made to any officer under the bill except from date of confirmation. The bill was advocated by Senator Logan, who said it was an act of justice to the officers who had been denied the right to the promotions to which the act of 1866 entitled them. It was passed without dissent, and went to the House, where it was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. On Tuesday last the committee gave a hearing to parties representing both sides of the controversy. General Rufus Saxton, of the Quartermaster-General's Department, argued in favor of the bill, and maintained that the promotions made by President Johnson were directly in violation of law, Army regulations, and all precedents, which required that promotions in the staff departments should be by seniority. On the other side General Rufus Ingalls appeared, and the Hon. Mr. Gooch, of Boston, made an argument in his behalf and that of other officers whose positions on the staff would be injuriously affected by the Senate bill. Mr. Gooch took the ground that the rule of promotion by seniority was not applicable to new positions on the staff created by law, like those to which General Ingalls and others were appointed by Johnson over the heads of their seniors. He held that where new grades were created, or an increased number of officers authorized in existing grades by act of Congress, the President had authority to fill the vacancies by selection, unless the law creating the new positions expressly declared otherwise. The committee came to no decision upon the question, and there will probably be another hearing given to both sides.

THE Senate, on Wednesday of last week, passed a bill which proposes to authorize the Secretary of War, in case where clothing of the enlisted men of the Army has been lost or destroyed by unavoidable accident, or where the necessities of the service require its destruction or abandonment, to order, after investigation by an inspector general or a board of officers, such gratuitous issue to replace the same as may be recommended by the officer or board making such investigation.

GENERAL SLOCUM introduced in the House, on Monday, last week, a bill which provides "that all officers of the United States Army who may hereafter be retired shall be retired upon the actual rank held by them at the date of retirement; and all laws or parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed."







sand white inhabitants in such State. Every such youth shall be admitted upon such establishment at ten years of age. At the age of fourteen he shall be bound an apprentice in the sea service for seven years, completely furnished with necessary clothes and bedding. At the expiration of that term he shall be liable for a term of seven years, in time of war, to do duty or to find a seaman to do duty in his room on board the naval force in the service of the United States, or in that of the State in which he was educated. He, or his substitute to be free from every tax. Each State to make suitable laws for rendering the naval establishment a public benefit. All flag officers to be created by election alone. Nor shall the principle of seniority give any titles to such promotions.

#### NOBLE'S ELECTRO-CHRONOSCOPE AND THE 10-INCH GUN.

(From the London Mechanics' Magazine, Feb. 17, 1872.)

THE application of Captain Noble's chronoscope to the object of determining the velocity of certain monster projectiles, weighing, respectively 800, 1000, and 1200 pounds, within the bore of a 10-inch gun, at different positions in their progress from the breech and to the muzzle, has occupied the attention of the Committee on Explosives for some time past. The series of experiments terminated upon Thursday, the 4th inst. Before, however, touching upon the results which have been attained, it may be as well briefly to glance at the construction and working of that remarkable instrument which has been employed to elucidate them.

The electro-chronoscope, then, consists of a series of multiplying gear, imparting excessively rapid motion to eight silvered-copper discs the use of which shall be described hereafter. Motion is in the first instance applied to the first cogged-wheel in the series of multiplying gear through the agency of a heavy weight attached to a chain, which is wound around a drum upon the same axis as the wheel. The first wheel drives another, having a circumference exactly one-fifth of its own. Upon the axis of the smaller wheel is a second large wheel, which consequently revolves five times as fast as the first large wheel. The second large wheel drives a second small wheel, also one-fifth of its size. This process is continued four times. Upon the same axis as the fourth small wheel are the eight silvered discs, the circumferences of which are each eight times as great as that of the small wheel. To the second large cogged-wheel, in the series of multiplying gear, a clock is attached, which is set going by the depression of a lever connected with the wheel at the commencement of each revolution, and stopped by a corresponding elevation of the lever at its termination. Hence the rate of speed at which this wheel is revolving can at any moment be accurately determined. Such a rate, therefore,  $5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 8$  will give the velocities of the silvered-copper discs. Taking then the velocity of the second wheel as five inches per second—a rate of speed which it has been deemed desirable to maintain—that of the silvered discs attains the enormous figure of 1000 inches per second, or approximately a mile a minute! This excessive rapidity is, however, generated by degrees. At first starting the discs revolve at a moderate pace, and it is only when the clock upon the second wheel indicates that the correct amount of momentum has been obtained, that the apparatus is actually ready for registering the velocity of a projectile. To continue our description of the discs and their means of application. Each is surrounded by a tire of white paper carefully coated with the finest lampblack. Closely applied to this tire, but not actually touching, is the fine point of the end of an insulated wire communicating with an electrical coil and battery beneath the machine. The other corresponding wire from the coil is attached to the disc. Thus, but for the small distance intervening between the point before mentioned and the edge of the disc, there would be an unbroken circuit in the coil. Such, then, is the normal state of the secondary coil of the battery. The primary coil communicates with an instrument termed an "electrical cutter," screwed into the whole thickness of the gun to be experimented on, and forming an unbroken circuit with the battery. The cutter acts as follows:—being cylindrical and hollow, it admits of a continuous wire doubled up, being passed in and out of it, the loop at the end fitting into a small bed of copper, to obviate the possibility of the wire becoming injured by the rush of powder gas in front of the shot, thus severing the connection too soon. A sharp cutting hatchet protrudes in an inclined position ready for cutting the wire at the extremity of the cutter. A succession of these cutters are placed at intervals along the gun. The projectile is placed within the gun before the cutters are screwed into their places; the wires of course are connected afterwards. All at the gun is now in readiness for the experiment, and as soon as the chronoscope indicates that the maximum speed in the discs has been attained, the charge is fired, and the projectile, darting forwards, cuts successively the insulated wires inserted in each of the cutters, by pressing down the hatchets as it passes over them, consequently breaking the circuit in each primary coil beneath the chronoscope. By this means, however, the secondary coils are brought successively into play. Sparks of electricity dart from the points of each insulated wire, one after another, on the discs, and a series of dots is obtained upon the lampblack easily perceptible to the naked eye. But the discs are at the same instant revolving at the rate of 1000 inches per second, hence as the sparks from the insulated points are not simultaneous—the projectile of course reaching all the cutters after successive intervals—and as the discs are on one rigid axis, so each respective disc has moved forward a little before its turn comes to be dotted. Thus the entire number of dots are in an advancing series around the circumference of the discs taken as a whole. At the extremity of, and in a line with the axis upon which the discs revolve, is a detached vernier scale, the zero of which can be brought to the first dot, the distances of the other dots from it being then marked off one after the other, and as the discs have been revolving at a con-

stant rate of 1000 inches per second, the velocity of the projectile in its passage from cutter to cutter can easily be ascertained.

The design of the present series of experiments has been to arrive at—by means of nice calculations, in which the velocity of the projectile, its weight, the distance from point of starting, the increment in speed, and certain other conditions are taken into consideration—the pressure which is exerted by various descriptions of powder and various sized projectiles at particular points within the bore of a gun. Similar results can, of course, be obtained by "crusher gauges," which consist of hollow cylinders and tightly-fitting pistons, that compress a piece of copper placed within them—the amount of pressure being regulated by the compression of the piece of copper—but these latter only register the pressure upon the exact point at which the gauge is inserted, and not to any extent around it; hence the powder-gas wave may give an unusual pressure at a particular spot by its turning at an abrupt angle or otherwise, and yet, should there be no "crusher gauge" inserted in this precise situation, no indications will be obtained of the unusual pressure; on the other hand, any such violent effort of the powder-gas will assuredly stimulate the movement of the projectile, hence the "cutter" will give immediate warning of its existence. Nevertheless, "crusher gauges" have been inserted in corresponding positions to those which have been occupied by cutters during these experiments, and, singularly enough, the results which were obtained from both have been found to tally in the most marvellous manner.

The two descriptions of powder principally used, viz., the Waltham Abbey "pebble" and the rifle-large-grain, have given indications differing from one another very widely. The combustion of the former is so exceedingly slow when compared with that of the latter, that the velocity of two projectiles, fired with equal charges of both these powders at two feet from the point of starting, differs in the proportion of two to thirteen! Hence it has been unanimously resolved to abandon the employment of rifle-large-grain powder in great guns, from which heavy projectiles are of course invariably fired; for, in consequence of its rapid combustion, the pressure exerted in the charge chamber is found to be greater than on occasions where "pebble" powder has been used, in the proportion of 28 to 15. Thus, had rifle-large-grain powder been fired in the recent experiments with the 35-ton gun, the average pressure would have attained to over 40 tons to the square inch, being of course a strain upon the steel lining far too high for any material, however tough, to be subjected to. These facts, now eliminated, the importance of the conclusions which may be drawn from them can hardly be overestimated; for it is manifest that the means to be adopted for the reduction of such exceptional pressures, as that which caused the late unfortunate accident with the 35-ton gun, are presumable simple and within our power of execution. Being only the corresponding reduction of the rate of combustion in the powder employed, always of course within reasonable limits, it matters little whether the force of the powder-gas begins to exert itself at once upon the base of the projectile when the charge is fired, or after a certain proportion of the distance towards the muzzle has been traversed. The effect, in either case, is equally great. But it is a matter of most serious importance that the powder-gas wave should have room to expand itself, so as not to form those abrupt angles to which exceptional pressures are at present officially attributed. At the same time the science of powder-gas waves is entirely in its infancy, but it is possible further researches may throw an entirely new light upon this most interesting subject.

#### FORT VALERIEN.

VALERIEN is a five-sided fortress. The lines of the pentagon are, on the side nearest Paris, about 400 metres long, on the opposite front they measure only 350. The contour of these lines is, as is the case also at Issy, drawn on the French bastion-trace, and they were armed with 24-pounder, 12-pounder, and 6-pounder bronze muzzle-loading guns. Within a circle having a radius of about half a mile from the fort as a centre, the ground rises in gentle slopes. It is devoted principally to the culture of the vine, and is of a bare and uninteresting character. Within the bastion-trace the gradient becomes much more steep, and the land rises rapidly to a height of about 400 feet, forming a steep hill, having an artificially levelled top, on which are erected partially casemated barracks for the accommodation of troops, bomb-proof magazines for ammunition, officers' quarters, commandant's house, chapel, and numerous other buildings. On this flat summit is also erected a battery, armed with the heaviest iron naval guns in the possession of the French. These are breech-loading pieces, and two of them measure sixteen centimetres in diameter of bore. Raised above its fellows, on a "cavalier," or mound of earth, protected by gabions, sand-bags, barrels filled with clay, etc., is placed a huge breech-loading piece of ordnance. Fixed on each side of the wrought-iron carriage are two davits, or cranes, fitted with tackles, whereby the muzzle can be hoisted up or lowered, in order to depress or elevate the gun. This cannon measures twenty-five centimetres in diameter of bore, and is the one which threw a bolt about seventy-five centimetres in length right across the Seine on to the slope below the terrace at St. Germain.

Below this monster are the other two breech-loading iron guns of nineteen centimetres calibre, which fired on Bougival and Ville St. Cloud, while on either side of them the batteries are filled up with eight muzzle-loading marine guns, of sixteen centimetres bore. Half way up the slope, between the ordinary bastions and the heavy naval battery, and on the southern face of the hill, was a tier of guns, principally 24-pounders, throwing a long conical shot of fifty-six pounds in weight. Most of these were directed against Sévres, Montretout, and Ville d'Avray. On this level also a splinter-proof battery was in course of construction; the uprights had been fixed, but the work would seem to have been suddenly

interrupted, as there were no preparations visible for completing the frame or mounting guns. The guns were all mounted *en barbette*, and many of them placed on fronts and faces unprovided with embrasures, had been simply fired over the edge of the parapet. Some of these guns have been elevated to such an angle that it was found necessary to depress the trails into holes dug in the earth for that purpose.

Besides the defences of the principal fort, two outlying earthworks or redoubts had been thrown up during the siege—one in the direction of Bueil, and at a considerable distance from the main work, with which it is connected by traverses.

#### DESERTION FROM THE ARMY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York Tribune at Washington, who is devoting himself to the study of Army matters, arrives at the following conclusions on the subject of desertion:

Having drawn attention in my first letter, published in the Tribune, to the distempered state of the Army, as exemplified in the numerous courts-martial and the unusually large number of desertions, I shall, with your permission, endeavor to "spell out the story." Among the European armies, the British army, which is by far the most costly, exhibits also, at the same time, the least flattering picture, so far as discipline is concerned. The "red-coats" are greater drunkards than other European soldiers, and, also proportionally, more given to desertion; and as our Army and the British are both made up, not by compulsory conscription, but voluntary enlistment, a comparison of the statistics of crimes and misdemeanors will add to the right understanding of our own military establishment. The data brought to light last year, during the Parliamentary debates on the reorganization of the Army, show that in the year 1868, the date of the abolition of flogging—there were in the British army 8,700 imprisonments, 2,500 convictions before courts-martial, and 1,774 soldiers branded as deserters, and all this in a force which was variously estimated at 150,000 and 170,000, including the troops at home and in the colonies. These are, no doubt, eloquent statistics; but what if the catalogue of crimes and misdemeanors in our little Army is far in advance of that of the English? Judging from the regiments which fell immediately under my notice, I can aver that things look infinitely less flattering in our Army, both with reference to misdemeanors in general and the crime of desertion. In the British army, as well as in the other European armies, desertions happen singly—one soldier will run away from this, another from that regiment—while in ours the men desert in squads, and this they do whether free or under arrest, being in the latter case frequently joined by their custodians or guards. With some the watchword is "Wait for pay-day," which happens once in two months; others desert at any day or hour. The new recruits, forwarded at a heavy expense to distant posts, as soon as they get over the first excitement and the enjoyment of novelty, follow in the track of other deserters, and away they all run, undeterred even with the prospect of falling in with the wild Indians. What is perhaps still more characteristic of the situation is the fact that a fair proportion of the deserters caught and brought back manage to reëscape, and that with final success.

It is only a few months ago that five, out of a batch of some 20 deserters, succeeded in reëscaping from Fort Leavenworth, the headquarters of the general commanding the department; and an officer assured me that such a *debandade* took place last Summer at the West Point Academy, garrisoned by what is termed picked companies; and that such occurrences took place in many other military posts East and West. Reason as we may, desertion alone, considered in the light of the aggravated circumstances just hinted at, shows a state of decomposition in our Army; and unless some measures are devised now, while Generals Frost and Snow keep the enlisted men to their colors, the question of reform must become a puzzling problem. The disintegrating influences are manifold, and daily increasing in virulence.

With all deference due to our department commanders, I cannot help disagreeing with the general view expressed in the last annual reports, viz., that the numerous desertions were owing to the expiration, in July last, of the act of Congress passed in 1864, raising the pay of the soldier from \$13 to \$16 per month. No doubt, in some instances, this reduction of pay might have led to desertion; but a comparison between the number of desertions previous to July last and those that happened since that date will show a very slight difference; and conceding, even, that desertions have become more numerous since July, the fact can be explained simply by the natural process of the spreading of the disease. It is the progress of demoralization. To arrive at a true remedy, Army matters will have to be faced squarely. Somebody must begin to look around in earnest, and to speak out. General Pope, who has under his command a much larger force than any of the other departmental commanders, and who expresses his opinion that the reduction of the pay was "one considerable cause of the desertions," comes out in his report with the quite novel and consoling idea of considering the deserters as useful pioneers, who exchange the sword for the plow; intimating that, "in the end, the Government loses perhaps nothing by bringing active, industrious men to this frontier country." This version of the desertions adopted, would, of course, solve all difficulties as if by a charm; but it will be well, first, to find out if these runaways, instead of seeking settlements on the frontier, do not make their way back to the large Eastern cities and Canada, wholly independent of colonization schemes. It would be rather interesting to know what the great lights in the War Department and the White House think of this grand idea of General Pope; in the mean time it might perhaps not be superfluous to remind the board of officers, who have been and are now engaged in the framing of new Army regulations, to discriminate between simple deserters and those who leave their colors with intent to colonize.



## THE NATIONAL GUARD.

**NATIONAL GUARD REDUCTIONS.**—General Headquarters, State of New York, very properly continues to weed from its service those troops who are unable to maintain the minimum standard, and, in addition to those published in the last issue of the JOURNAL, directs the disbandment of the Eighty-sixth regiment of Infantry, comprising troops scattered throughout Greene county, N. Y., and the Ninety-first Battalion of Infantry, located chiefly in Orange county, N. Y. The Second Battalion of Cavalry, Twenty-fourth brigade, located in Onondaga and Oswego counties, is likewise disbanded, Troops A, C, and E being retained in the service as separate or independent commands, the latter reporting to Major-General H. A. Barnum, commanding Sixth division, headquarters at Syracuse, and Troop A, to Brigadier-General John A. Green, commanding Twenty-fourth brigade, headquarters at same city. All these surplus commands are ordered to be mustered out of the service, the arms, ordnance, and quartermaster's stores, and other public property turned over to Brigadier-General Samuel Wm. Johnson, chief of ordnance at New York city, and the field, staff, and line officers rendered supernumerary, as prescribed by the law. Brigadier-Generals George Beach, Eighth brigade, Fifth division; Wm. R. Brown, Twenty-second brigade; and John A. Green, Twenty-fourth brigade, are respectively charged with carrying out the details of this order.

The State is pursuing a wise plan by getting rid of all troops unable to preserve the minimum standard of members. The forces of the First division can be materially strengthened by consolidations and disbandments, and if we had our way we would do away entirely with one brigade and strengthen the others by congenial consolidations. The State could well afford to allow members the difference of the expenses incurred in a change of uniform, etc. The amount saved by this arrangement even in one year being, in our judgment, more than enough to cover this. As for the city, it would economize in the period from rentals alone enough to furnish excellent accommodations for the increased size of the organizations remaining. We have in our mind a pretty clear plan as to how this could be done, and perhaps at some future time we may divulge it for the edification of the State, city, and interested National Guardsmen.

**TWENTY-SECOND INFANTRY.**—A few weeks since we commented on the erroneous method of instruction in rifle practice about to be introduced by this command. It seems, however, that to some extent we were mistaken in our views, or misunderstood the real purpose of the committee having this matter in charge. This committee, who nominally comprise Captains Styles and Duckworth and Lieutenant Horsfall, have recommended the erection in the armory of tripods formed of poles about six feet long tied or fastened near the top; also a bag of sand. These are to be used in teaching the soldier to properly aim his piece, by placing the tripod in an upright position, the sand bag on the tripod, and the piece on the sand bag. Each man in succession then aims the piece, after which the instructor examines the arm and determines as to its correctness of aim; if an error is found, the soldier making it is required to repeat aiming until his aim is true. This practice is to be continued until it is evident to the instructor that each man fully understands the principle involved in the exercise.

After it is found that the men thoroughly understand the manner of aiming from a rest, actual firing commences at the target with ball cartridge; and for this purpose pasteboard targets properly marked, and paper wafers to cover the bullet holes, are introduced. The targets are placed for firing on the present butt erected in the armory on the Fifteenth street side. A target for volley firing is to be erected on the Sixth avenue side of the armory, and this target is to be made of proper material, say six feet high and thirty feet long. The drill in firing with ball cartridge is to be had once a month by each company, and at these drills the firing is to be by individual members mainly, and at the close of the drill at least one volley by the entire company should be fired. In firing without a rest, or off-hand, the drill for aiming as laid down in "Upton's Tactics" will be observed. The drill nights of the several companies of the regiment are to be so arranged as to bring but two companies together on any one evening.

These are the plans as presented by the committee, and, we understand, fully approved by the Board of Officers of the regiment. We have only to state that their chief merit is their simplicity and almost entire absence of detail, and if the Twenty-second become good marksmen under this instruction, we shall be somewhat surprised. We do not see why the authorized system of instruction, as carefully compiled and published in the JOURNAL, is not explicit enough. It is a synopsis of the system introduced at Wimbledon in English rifle practice, and the results have shown conclusively its benefits. Still we do not wish to discourage the regiment in this good work, and will therefore watch the results of the present system until the regiment has found its mistake. There is one established fact, however, and that is that the regiment apparently is thoroughly alive on this subject, and the companies begin already to discuss competition rifle matches for prizes. The first company to lead off in this, and very properly, too, is right Company, F, Capt. Clan Ranald. This company at a recent meeting appointed Captain Clan Ranald, Sergeant Brill, and Privates MacMurray

and Carmichael as a committee, for the purpose of organizing, regulating, and holding a prize meeting of the company, to transpire in the course of the coming summer. It is intended to have two series of competitions, at ranges from 150 to 600 yards, the shooting to be in accordance with Wimbledon regulations. One of the competitions will be exclusively for men who have never fired at a target, while the other one will be open to all members of the company, subject to the conditions to be issued by the committee. A challenge cup will likewise be presented by the officers of the company, to be shot for in accordance with the conditions offered for prizes of this description. This company, it will be observed, propose the Wimbledon system in its competition, and we presume therefore its instructions, notwithstanding the recommendations of the committee, will be in accordance with that system. Company F deserves special recommendation and praise for this genuine effort to encourage the use of the rifle, and the committee appointed we are assured are perfectly competent to grapple with the subject before them. Mr. Carmichael, one of the members, is thoroughly conversant with the Wimbledon system of rifle practice, and upon his knowledge, of course, the committee will mainly rely. The company, however, are strongly in earnest in this project, and its commendable spirit in this matter doubtless will soon be imitated by other companies of the regiment and National Guard. The company has our best wishes for its success in this pioneer undertaking of the First division.

**SEVENTY-FIRST INFANTRY.**—On Monday evening, at an election in this command, Brevet Major H. C. Lockwood, late of the United States Volunteers, was unanimously elected major, vice Eunson, resigned. This is an excellent choice. We know Major Lockwood well, and can assure the Seventy-first that they will find in him an officer every way worthy of their confidence and respect. He is a gentleman of character and ability, and one who will devote himself with conscientious fidelity to any trust he undertakes. His service in the Army was confined to staff duty, and he may need some education in field service; but this will be speedily acquired, and the Seventy-first will find that they have chosen a major to be proud of, not only for fine physique, but for the more important qualities of the soldier. Major Lockwood was originally appointed captain and additional aide-de-camp U. S. Army, March 31, 1862, and served about one year on the staff of General James S. Wadsworth, military governor of Washington. He likewise served on the staff of the Second brigade, Sixth Army corps, and was present at the battles of the Wilderness, Tavern, and at Spotsylvania Court-house. He was attached to the staff of General John H. Martindale at Cold Harbor, Va., and during the siege of Petersburg, Va. He afterwards served on the staff of Major-General Adelbert Ames during the siege of Richmond, Va.; at Darbeytown Road, Charles City, Fort Fisher, N. C. (both expeditions), and Wilmington, and was brevetted major at Fort Fisher, on the occasion of the second expedition, for gallant services.

**TWENTY-THIRD INFANTRY.**—The series of band concerts and social dances continues to be popular. The second, held on Saturday evening last at Burnham's Academy, Brooklyn, despite the bad weather, was a complete success. The selections of music were admirably rendered by the regimental band, under the direction of Signor L. Conterno, the clarinet obligato, by Signor Ciccone, in the fantasia, "I Paritani," receiving a well-merited encore. A well-selected number of dances followed, the floor being filled with a most elegant assemblage until the final Gating or Mitrailleuse galop. The orchestral music, under Signor Papst, was exquisite.

On Tuesday evening Companies D, E, F, G, I, and K assembled, ten files strong, at the State Arsenal, Brooklyn, for drill, under the regiment's popular junior field officer, Major Partridge, who for the first time assumed command of the battalion. Despite the well-directed instructions of this officer, the drill failed to present many satisfactory results, the battalion executions, as a rule, not exhibiting the usual proficiency of the regiment. The alignments were, as a rule, exceedingly faulty, and the general alignments, even after many trials, almost failures. Company guides, apparently, had little or no idea of their duties; and the junior officers, mainly in command, were scarcely up to the mark. Therefore the movements were performed with but little life, making the drill to a large extent void of interest to either members or spectators. Major Partridge, while displaying admirable points as an instructor, very naturally at times exhibited slight nervousness. His delivery is good, and his general style such as to inspire the confidence of the command. He, however, in one or two instances omitted the cautionary command, but otherwise gave a good account of his qualities as a soldier. The guides of the Twenty-third will have to study up, as also will many of its junior officers, if the exhibition given at this drill is a criterion.

**FIFTEENTH (BATTALION) INFANTRY.**—Our prognostications of the ultimate disbandment of this offshoot of the Twenty-eighth are not, it seems, to be at present realized. An enthusiastic meeting of its officers has expressed a unanimous determination to recruit the battalion, and rapidly attain a regimental designation. The battalion has, it is said, received the united support of a number of influential German politicians of Brooklyn, who have resolved that Brooklyn proper shall have a German regiment worthy of the name. At present the Western District, with the exception of this battalion, is entirely without any Teutonic

military organizations, the two strictly German commands being located in "Dutchtown," the Sixteenth ward (Eastern District) of the city. The members of this battalion are entirely satisfied, it seems, with the separation from the Twenty-eighth, and exhibit more life now than ever—certainly in words. We await the result with interest.

**SIXTY-NINTH INFANTRY.**—A regimental court-martial for the trial of delinquencies and deficiencies among the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of this command is ordered to convene at the regimental armory on Monday, March 25, at 8 o'clock P. M. Detail for the court: Captain William Cushing, Company F, Sixty-ninth Infantry. A full dress battalion drill was held on Monday evening at the State Arsenal. This regiment parades in full dress uniform March 18 to participate in the parade in honor of Ireland's Patron Saint. Assembly at 10 o'clock A. M. Captain Jerome J. Collins has been detailed as "instructor of musketry" to this regiment, and Second Lieutenant Dennis C. McCarthy as assistant instructor. The sergeants of the several companies reported for instruction to Captain Collins at the regimental armory on Thursday evening last. Adjutant Frederick T. Goggin and Second Lieutenant John J. Kelly, of this regiment, have been honorably discharged the State service. William O'Meagher, has been appointed surgeon, vice Wm. T. Nealis, resigned; William O'Donnell, assistant surgeon, original vacancy; and Michael Keegan, adjutant, vice Frederick T. Goggin, resigned. Private Patrick McFadden, Company K, has been honorably discharged, his term of service having expired.

**FIFTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.**—General Orders (received through Captain Roehrer, commanding Company F, instead of the regular source) promulgate Special Orders from Third brigade, announcing the resignation of Colonel Wm. B. Allen "for the benefit of this command," and placing Lieutenant-Colonel Francis A. Schilling in command. The use of the word "benefit" instead of information rather places our friend the colonel in a false position, which we feel assured was never intended, as it is a well-established fact that Colonel Allen has placed the Fifty-fifth in a position it never presumed to assume before his control. In the loss of this officer the regiment loses a steadfast friend—one whom we know the members will always remember with the most pleasant recollections.

In the promulgation of this order, Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling, without first assuming command as directed, orders division drills weekly, under the supervision of the field officers, commencing Monday, March 11, until further orders, as follows: Mondays, Companies A and G; Tuesdays, Companies C and B; Thursdays, Companies H and E; Fridays, Company D and I. Roll-call of companies at 7:30 o'clock P. M. Fine for non-attendance \$2. The action of Company F, in expelling Privates Valentine Krauss, Louis Wentzler, Carl Staehle, August Werle, Herrmann V. Stein, and Louis Selere is approved; and Francis Vianney is appointed hospital steward, with rank from December 13, 1871.

We have commented on these errors not in a spirit of mere fault-finding, but because we take interest in the movements of the Fifty-fifth. The General Order otherwise, we must confess, is in good style, and neat in its general arrangement.

**SEVENTH INFANTRY.**—This command has wisely introduced the plan of a series of drills on the "Square." Indoor drills, especially in a command of the size of the Seventh, are never satisfactory, the want of space, etc., confining to a large degree the movements prescribed in the School of the Battalion, and making even those undertaken more or less cramped. In an open space like Tompkins Square, however, a battalion or regiment can execute any battalion movement prescribed, and thoroughly test the results of its previous instruction as attained in the armory or arsenal. Unfortunately, however, but few regiments of the First division can devote the larger portion of two or more days in one month to military instruction; and this is especially so in regiments where members are engaged in mechanical pursuits, or in such a way that their income depends upon the number of days actually employed in work. For this reason alone, this, one of the many good examples offered by the Seventh, will not be generally followed in the National Guard. These Thursday afternoon drills of the regiment during the month of April have been well received among the members, and will undoubtedly prove beneficial to the regiment, and instructive to members of other commands, as well as attractive to the numerous friends of the Seventh. If the weather is favorable on these drill days a large concourse of spectators may be expected, among whom of course will be many military critics. As is well known, the Seventh has always been a prominent target, against which all the darts of the critics of the National Guard have been directed, so that every error of omission and commission is sure to receive attention. To say this is to highly compliment the command. Moreover the criticisms evoked, and the consciousness of the conspicuous position it occupies, react on the regiment, and stimulate it to endeavor. Petty and unjust criticisms, emanating solely from a spirit of jealousy, such as from time to time have been levelled at this regiment in consequence of its superior position, strength, and drill, are not only out of place, but also prejudicial to their utterers rather than their object. The Seventh has long sought active competition in the National Guard of this and other States, but has failed thus far to find any, and not even the Ninth, in all its glory of the



past year, has been able to reach the precision of drill, excellence of material, or even strength of the justly famous Seventh. We have no more inclination to praise the Seventh than any other organization, nor would we at any time cover up its errors or mistakes when they occur, because of its high position; on the contrary, we expect and demand more of it than of less favored commands. When we say favored, we bear in mind, also, what must be clear to every unbiased and intelligent member of the National Guard, that the present and past fame of the Seventh regiment has been won by fair and hard work, costing years of toil on the part of its officers and members. There are regiments, however, in the National Guard, whose general personnel is equal and in some particulars better than that of the Seventh, but there are none as yet that combine all those qualities which go so far to make up a regiment like the New York Seventh.

The wing battalion drills in this command held last week were exceedingly successful, and the usual generous rivalry was exhibited on the part of the members of each wing. The turnout on both occasions was equal—five commands of twenty-four files—and there was little apparent superiority in the movements to be claimed by either. The movements were similar on both occasions, comprising simply those which the battalions had to a large extent practiced in former seasons, and which the space of the drill-room admitted. Colonel Clark, as usual, was in command, Major Smith and Adjutant Fitzgerald assisting him in his duties. The marching, ploy, and deployments were admirably executed, and the formation and reduction of squares formed, as heretofore, remarkable features of both drills. The right wing may claim, perhaps, a slight superiority in general steadiness, but the firings of the left could scarcely be excelled. Colonel Clark in one instance gave this latter wing a severe test in firing by battalion, by commanding a "recovert" no less than four times in succession before delivering the order to "fire." During this period not a single trigger was pulled, and the utmost attention given, so that when the command of execution was delivered the battalion fired as one man. The drill was watched with great interest by the select few of spectators admitted, among whom at the latter drill—strange to relate, under the circumstances—were two ladies, the other portion of the audience being composed of the members of the regiment. There is a peculiar sameness about the battalion movements of the Seventh, which we think would be well to change. The space allotted to drill is at least equal to that of the arsenal, and in this latter building the Twelfth has, to our knowledge, performed more movements, and in good style too, than have recently been undertaken by the Seventh.

On the evening of the 8th inst. Company H, Captain Geo. W. Smith, was the pleasing recipient of a handsome executed and life-like portrait of its former and esteemed commander Brevet Colonel Shumway. The company, parading thirty-five files, previously held a drill in the large room, which drill was remarkable for its excellence, and the praise the movements of the company elicited by the numerous spectators assembled. This over, the company and friends assembled in the Board of Officers' room, and then formally presented the above-named elegant gift of a few of the former members. Colonel Lefferts made the presentation.

**FOURTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY.**—The grand band concert of this command, when it proposes to publicly introduce the leading band of the Second division, takes place on Wednesday evening next, at the regimental armory. A large concourse of the elite of the Burg will of course be in attendance. The new rifle-range, just erected by this command under its armory, is likely to become a popular resort for the members. It is 135 feet long, about 3 feet in diameter, and the firing, singly, is through a circular opening, commencing some half a dozen feet from the point of rest, and extending to the rear of the building, where a lighted target is placed. The enterprising commandant of the regiment has prepared a simple, as well as a novel, combination tactic for street firing with infantry and howitzer battery, and proposes giving an exhibition or drill in this practice next month with his regiment, in connection with the Eleventh brigade howitzer battery.

**THE SPENCER COURT OF INQUIRY.**—We herewith present to our readers the report containing the basis of the decision in the case of Captain Bird W. Spencer, commanding Company K, Ninth Infantry, N. G. S. N. Y., who was charged with cowardice on the 12th of July, 1871, or on the occasion of the riot in this city:

The only question presented to the court is, to determine if the evidence adduced presents such a reasonable conclusion that Captain Spencer was not wounded in the riot of July 12, 1871, as to raise the belief that such a proposition can be effectually sustained by a trial before a court-martial; all other questions arising under the different charges and specifications must be dependent upon this one.

The charges of desertion, and presentation of the bill for payment, can not be made out if the evidence shows that Captain Spencer was wounded and unfit for duty upon that occasion.

The evidence for the prosecution does not make out a clear case against Captain Spencer upon this charge. It is true that it shows conclusively the facts that Captain Spencer was present with his command immediately before the firing commenced on that occasion, and disappeared at or about the time the firing commenced, and remained absent during the remainder of the day. This evidence alone would make a *prima facie* case against Captain Spencer, who, however, endeavors to excuse his absence upon the ground that he was injured and incapacitated from remaining at his post. Upon Captain Spencer, therefore, devolves the onus of proving that he was wounded.

He has adduced the most positive testimony that, as early as 7 or 8 o'clock, in the evening of the 12th of July, and for a number of days succeeding, he was in his bed suffering from injuries of some kind upon his back. Dr. Colville, an eminent physician of this city, who attended him, has testified most positively and clearly upon this point. The wound, the marks of which were quite apparent to Dr. Colville, when called in attendance, was, in his

opinion, inflicted by a bar or rod of some description. No attempt was made to discredit this witness, or to show that he was not entirely competent to treat such a case or form an opinion about it. Some expert medical testimony was introduced by the prosecution to show that the symptoms as described by Dr. Colville could not, from the locality of the wound, attend the infliction of a wound such as this was described to be by Dr. Colville. A careful examination of the medical testimony on both sides fails to discover any material discrepancy between them.

It must, therefore, be assumed that, as early as 7 or 8 o'clock, on the 12th of July, Captain Spencer was suffering from a wound on his back, and was confined to his bed on account of it. It is further shown by the witnesses, both for the prosecution and defense, that as late as the commencement of the firing by the troops on the 12th of July, which took place at about 2 P. M., Captain Spencer was with his command and was in good health. The wound, therefore, must have been received at some time between 2 and 7 P. M.

There is nothing definite shown by Captain Spencer as to the manner, time, or place, of the infliction of this wound, although he does advance a theory as to all three points. He claims that he received the wound shortly after the commencement of the firing by the troops. There is no evidence on the part of the prosecution to show that the wound was not received at that time. The evidence on the part of the prosecution is imperfect, and, in fact, not altogether consistent in its different parts.

Lieutenant Bacon testifies that immediately after the firing he missed Captain Spencer, and went to the door of the bakery, but did not enter. He returned to his company and then went to the bakery, and entered it, going through to the rear room and looking into it. He saw a number of persons, but did not see Captain Spencer, and feels quite positive that he was not in the room. He did not go up stairs, however. There is nothing inconsistent in this testimony with the claim of Captain Spencer and the testimony of other witnesses that he was up stairs in the bakery, and at that time suffering from a wound. The testimony is conclusive upon the point that, at least a very short time after the firing of the troops, Captain Spencer actually was present in the bakery, up stairs, sitting upon a bed, and claiming that he was wounded.

It is certainly conclusively shown that he remained up stairs in the bakery till about 4 1/2 or 5 o'clock, and that he then descended and returned to his home in Forty-eighth street. It does not appear that he had any assistance in getting home, and there is slight evidence on the part of the prosecution that he had none, and it must therefore be assumed as true that he returned without assistance.

The evidence for the prosecution presents nothing positive in contradiction of the claim on the part of Captain Spencer that he was wounded at the time of the riot in the Eighth avenue. The evidence presented is of a negative character, bearing upon Captain Spencer's actions, and the statements and expressions let fall by him upon that afternoon, and from this evidence it is asked that the inference or presumption be drawn that he was not wounded upon that occasion. As to his actions, it does not seem that anything has been shown which is necessarily inconsistent with the fact of the infliction of the wound. Upon this point it is only shown that he left his command and entered the bakery, and remained there for several hours, and returned home unaided. It is not impossible for a person suffering from a wound to conduct himself in this manner; and when we take into consideration the intense excitement of the occasion, it is not unreasonable to suppose that this very excitement gave him unusual nerve and strength to do these very things. This would appear to be the case from the fact that the prosecution itself has shown that upon reaching his chamber, where he must have felt himself secure, he fell upon the bed in an exhausted condition.

As to the precise time when he entered the bakery, the testimony of the prosecution is quite unsatisfactory, as there is no evidence upon that point except that of Miss Glenn, who testifies that after the firing, Captain Spencer pushed by her and entered the bakery. The testimony of Jacob Stern, the drummer, is that at the time of the riot, but before the troops of the Ninth regiment fired, he stationed himself at the door of the bakery, and remained there about a minute after the firing, and then entered and found Captain Spencer already up stairs. This witness says that while he was at the door Captain Spencer did not enter. Other witnesses, however, have testified to the fact that they saw Captain Spencer on the sidewalk after the firing by the Ninth regiment had commenced. The witness Stern may be perfectly correct, as well as the others, and the discrepancy in their testimony may be accounted for by the fact that there was a side door to the bakery, and that he might have carefully watched one door while Captain Spencer passed through the other.

Upon the other point, as to Captain Spencer's statements and expressions at the time and subsequently, it is shown that from the first moment he appears to have been seen in the bakery, he claimed and has ever since maintained that he was wounded. He does not appear to have had a definite idea of the locality of his wound, except that it was in the neck or the back, nor of the character of the instrument with which it was inflicted, and accordingly stated at different times that he thought it was a brick, a door, a crowbar, etc. As the blow must have been given from behind, it is not surprising that he should not know what the instrument was, and if the wound actually existed there, these statements must be taken for very little.

Dr. Rushton testifies that he saw Captain Spencer shortly after the firing in the bakery, and that he appeared to be suffering from pain, and stated that he was wounded in the back. Dr. Rushton made an examination of the back, which he states was a very curious one, and found no indications apparent of wounds, although when he passed his hands down the back of Captain Spencer, he evinced symptoms of increased pain.

As to the excited manner of Captain Spencer, and the remarks attributed to him while in the bakery, it would seem that there is nothing inconsistent in a wounded man expressing solicitude for his safety; and all the more solicitude, perhaps, for the reason that he was wounded. The only occasion upon which Captain Spencer has made a different statement was when he reached home, and his wife called to him, and he replied, "It's me. I'm all right; or, "It's all right." There is not in this expression any necessary conclusion that he meant to say that he was not wounded. On the contrary, it would be an express denial of all that he has so stoutly maintained during the afternoon. It could be very satisfactorily explained by a desire on his part to not needlessly alarm his wife.

It being thus shown by the evidence that Captain Spencer did have a serious wound in the back at about 7 P. M. on July 12th last, and it appearing that from the very time of the riot he claimed to have been wounded in the same, the theory that he was not wounded at that time and place must be founded upon the falsity of that claim, and Captain Spencer must have commenced at that time to simulate a wounded man.

There is no evidence sufficiently strong to warrant such a conclusion, and unless that can be proved, there being a total failure of positive testimony upon the subject of the infliction of the wound, it seems expedient to arrive at the conclusion that he was not wounded at that time. The evidence as adduced before the Court does not appear to warrant a reasonable belief that Captain Spencer could be convicted of the charges preferred, if brought to trial before a court-martial, but on the contrary clearly shows that he did receive a wound, from the effects of which, as Dr. Colville testifies, he has not yet fully recovered.

I, therefore, in consideration of the facts found, and the conclusions arrived at therefrom, respectfully recommend that the charges, etc., against Captain Bird W. Spencer, Company K, Ninth regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., be dismissed.

N. GANO DUNN, Lieut.-Col. Eighth regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., President Court of Inquiry.

Dated New York, February 14, 1872.

After a careful examination of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, the above opinion is approved, and the charges and specifications dismissed. By order of Brigadier-General J. M. Varian.

An appeal, we learn, is to be made to the Commander-in-Chief by Lieutenant Bacon, the accuser in this case. The exceptions to this decision in this appeal will fill it is stated some forty pages of print.

**TWELFTH INFANTRY.**—Battalion drills by wing are ordered in this command at the State Arsenal as follows: Companies A, B, C, D, and I, March 20; Companies E, F, G, H, and K, March 21. Assembly at 7:45 a.m.

o'clock P. M. The recruit class, under its detailed instructors and assistants, will assemble at the regimental armory March 25 and 27, April 2, 4, 8, and 10, at 8 o'clock P. M. The regimental board for the examination of non-commissioned officers assemble at the regimental armory March 27 at 8 o'clock P. M.

**VARIOUS ITEMS.**—Robert M. C. Graham, of Queens county, N. Y., has been appointed aide-de-camp on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, vice J. Townsend Connolly, resigned. ....The Washington Light Infantry Club, of Charleston, S. C., propose to commemorate the battle at Fort Sumter by a parade and target excursion on the 16th of April. ....Captain Hull, Company H, Thirteenth Infantry, has recently assumed an additional command, which is said to be a drug on his hands. ....The Fourteenth has received new life, it seems, since the new uniforms have begun to appear. It was at least a year and a half after adoption of this dress before any member appeared in it publicly, but it now has some hundred men fully uniformed in the new dress, which is similar in pattern and style to the New York Ninth's full dress. These uniforms cost the men about \$10 each, the remainder being made up from State and regimental funds. The regiment is rapidly improving in strength and drill, and we trust now the adverse times of the "old" Fourteenth are over. ....The lady admirers of Troop F, Third Cavalry, honored it with a masquerade surprise party on Tuesday evening, which was carried out in a highly successful manner. The first notice the members of the company had of the masquerade was the arrival of a band of musicians and an incongruous crowd of Ethiopians, old women, harlequins, royal personages, nymphs, etc., who opened the ball in the great regimental hall about 10 o'clock, which they kept alive through twenty-eight dances, and then went home to a late breakfast. The entertainment was conducted in the most cheerful and orderly manner, and reflected great credit upon the managers. Captain Docher, of the troop, and Colonel Budke, of the Third regiment Cavalry, were untiring in their attentions to guests, and greatly aided the ladies in carrying out a highly satisfactory programme. ....Captain John Kissel (formerly commandant of Company E, Thirty-second regiment), Captain Henry William ("Leicht-Thurn"), one of the eldest members of the National Guard, and Mr. Charles Illig, have signified their willingness to recruit companies for the Twenty-eighth battalion of Infantry. They await the future pleasure of the proper authorities. ....The annual promenade concert and ball of Company A (Signal Rifles), and Company B (Lincoln Guard), Thirty-second regiment, was the happy event on Monday evening at the Turn-Halle, Brooklyn, E. D. The rooms were beautifully decorated with military insignia; "fair women and brave men" turned out with full ranks; Mayer's Thirty-second regiment band enticed the admirers of Terpsichore to keep up the (anti-war) dance until midnight, when the "fatigued party" were furnished with "rations." They had hardly appeased their appetites, however, with all the delicacies of the season that the market afforded, when the long-roll was sounded to resume dancing, which pastime continued until "reville." Among the "heroes" present were Colonels Burger and Roeher, Lieutenant-Colonel Rueger, Major Karcher—of course—Captains Ross, Laul, and Lutz, and Lieutenants Heerd, Otto, Plant, Staudermann, and others whose names we did not ascertain. ....The Eighty-fourth propose to secede from the German brigade, and join the First. ....The Fifth Infantry held an election for colonel Friday, March 15. A "weighty" candidate is freely spoken of. ....The Ninth's election for colonel was ordered for Thursday last. Details next week.

#### OUT-OF-TOWN-ITEMS.

**MINNESOTA.**—The National Guard of the State begins to show some life and organization, and we trust its friends will follow up well the good beginning. A correspondent sends us some interesting facts relative to the proposed changes about to be inaugurated. He says:

We have just drafted a new militia bill, based upon the Military Code of New York State in almost every respect, and expect to get the Legislature to pass upon it this session. In it we have limited the number of men, however, to 3,000 infantry, and 1,000 for other branches of the service. We thought by limiting the number thus to stimulate companies to keep the organizations full; as the old law was, companies could organize indiscriminately all over the country. We wish to have it so the men will come to us, and not we go them; and 4,000 is a good nucleus for an army. The only benefits we have received heretofore are exemption from jury duty and taxes on \$400 of personal property. This year, in addition, we ask the State to allow us one dollar each for every man we can parade at our public parades during the year. We think this is very modest on our part, and intend it as only an entering wedge for something better next year. We have had no law whereby we could hold a member of the militia; neither could we impose a fine and collect the same. We have to depend entirely upon the goodwill and judgment of the men for obedience. It places the commandant in a very awkward position, and he cannot do what he would consider, with a good and wholesome law at his back, to be his duty. We expect to get a good law by degrees, and until we do succeed, must be content. We intend by legislation, and by limiting ourselves to 4,000 men, to make it not only desirable, but highly respectable to become a member of the National Guard of Minnesota.

**First Infantry.**—Companies A, B, and D, First regiment Minnesota National Guards, Colonel A. P. Connolly, paraded in full uniform (white gloves), for dress parade and battalion drill, on the evening of February 22, and are ordered likewise to parade March 21, April 18, May 23, June 20, July 18, August 22, September 19, October 24, November 21, and December 19, at 8 o'clock precisely. The commandant states that the object of these drills is instruction, and no excuse should be offered and none entertained for non-attendance, except sickness or absence from the city. He likewise trusts that full ranks at future drills will evince a determination on the part of the companies to excel, and to give proper attention to all that is required of them. The next public parade will be on the 30th of May, 1872.

It will be observed from the above that the militia of this State, unlike the militia of New York and other States, or at least the First Infantry, drill the year throughout by bat-



## FOREIGN MILITARY AND NAVAL ITEMS.

THE Emperor William has granted pardons to the French prisoners still held by the Government for civil and military offences.

A DESPATCH from Melbourne reports that the British sloop of war *Rosario*, Commander Palmer, shelled and destroyed the village inhabited by the murderers of Bishop Patterson.

THE vigilantes or policemen of Rio Janeiro, on the 15th of January, assailed a party of British sailors with swords and knives, killing two and wounding several others. Admiral Beauchamp Seymour has made vigorous representations to the authorities on the subject, but with what result is not yet known.

THE English Ordnance Department, which was converting a large number of old smooth-bore cast-iron 32-pounder guns into 64-pounder rifles by reaming them out and fitting them with rifled steel tubes upon the plan of Major Palliser, are largely garrisoning with these guns the works defending some of the approaches to so important a position as those naval stations at Portsmouth, which is proof that this description of gun has given satisfaction after proper experiments.

THE London *Times* says that the Megera inquiry appears to be already producing practical results. The Admiralty have despatched an order to the dockyards giving very positive directions as to the survey and inspection of ships in future, with a view to making the officials directly responsible as to the fitness of the vessels for the services required. The dockyard officials must have a history of each ship which passes through their hands, and must be very careful in making surveys and reports as to the repairs needed in any case. The Admiralty have also appointed a committee to inquire into a matter which was very prominent in the Megera inquiry—the galvanic action which may arise from the proximity of copper and other metals on the bottoms or in the interior of the hulls of ships.

ACCORDING to the *Gaulois*, attacks upon soldiers are becoming more frequent at Paris, and several persons have been arrested for uttering threats and insults. In order to prevent quarrels during the Carnival, soldiers have been prohibited from frequenting ball-rooms. On Saturday two soldiers of a cavalry regiment stationed at Roquencourt were thrown into the Seine and drowned. Another man belonging to an infantry regiment was dreadfully beaten at Boulogne, and was left insensible in a by-street of that village. Near Suresne an artilleryman was stripped and tied up to a tree, when he was subjected to cruel violence. "Even in Paris itself," adds the *Gaulois*, "our soldiers, when isolated, are exposed to the insults of the Parisian rabble."

THE payment of two milliards of the war indemnity, together with the interest to date on the remaining three milliards, was completed at Strasbourg, March 7. This gives France entire control of six departments, in which she is allowed to maintain as large a military force as she desires. The Assembly has rejected the proposition of Deputy Brunet to erect on the hill of Trocadero, a temple to Jesus Christ, as a testimony to belief in God, necessary for the national regeneration. It is expected that Minister Dufaure will demand of the Chamber a vote of confidence on the question of the withdrawal of M. Pouyer-Quertier from the Government. Troops are concentrating in and around Paris, as a precaution against trouble on the anniversary of the 18th of March. The emigration from Alsace to Algeria is increasing, and is aided and stimulated by France.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Athenaeum* says the Chinese have a most ingenious method of reckoning by the aid of the fingers, performing all the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, with numbers from one up to a hundred thousand. Every finger of the left hand represents nine figures, as follows: The little finger represents units; the ring finger tens; the middle finger hundreds; the fore finger thousands; the thumb tens of thousands. When the three joints of each finger are touched from the palm toward the tip they count one, two, and three of each of the denominations as above named. Four, five, and six are counted on the back of the finger-joints in the same way; seven, eight, and nine are counted on the right side of the joints from the palm to the tip. The fore finger of the right hand is used as the pointer. Thus 1,234 would be indicated by first touching the joint of the fore finger, next the hand on the inside, next the middle joint of the middle finger on the inside, next the end joint of the ring finger on the inside, and, finally, the joint of the little finger next the hand on the outside. The reader will be able to make further examples for himself. The writer alluded to asserts that the correctness of Chinese computation thus performed is proverbial.

THE London *Army and Navy Gazette* of February 26 publishes the report of the committee assembled by order of the Secretary for War to propose a plan of organization for the British Army of the future. The plan proposed, as briefly summed up by the *Gazette*, is as follows:

The first great change is one against the principle of which no objection can be adduced. The United Kingdom is to be divided into brigade districts, each complete in itself as far as staff and an executive and administrative centre can make it. Each brigade will be formed of two battalions of the line, two battalions of militia, and the volunteers of the district. Of the two line battalions one will be assigned to foreign service; the other will remain at home, to be disposed of as the authorities think fit, and to act as a depot battalion to that abroad till the reliefs come round. And the militia will be brought into closer relations with the line by the nomination of its qualified officers to battalions, and by the employment of army officers on terms which seem to need consideration, the volunteers being trained with the rest of the brigade, and placed under exclusively military control.

The brigade thus constituted is only a combination of soldiers in training for general service, of untrained soldiers for local service, and of a force which has not yet attained the right to be considered as a body of soldiers at all. To give a local habitation to each brigade organization the government propose to buy existing or erect new buildings in each district to serve as barracks, storehouses, quarters for staff, and general depot. Each brigade will be commanded by a lieutenant-colonel. There will be forty-nine military districts in England, nine in Scotland, and eight in Ireland, making sixty-six in all; and it seems, if we understand Mr. Cardwell aright, not easy to adopt under this system the plan, which he considers conducive to efficiency, of putting Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen together in the same battalions. It is a great matter to get rid of "billeting," but it is purely a question of internal economy. What we want to see is the "one harmonious whole," in which the three arms and the second and third reserves shall be brought into combination and close relation. The organization of the artillery is not much affected by the transfer of batteries to the command of majors instead of captains; but the War Office has gone on sound principles in making the change, and we trust they will not lose sight of the necessity of providing a full supply of officers to troops and batteries also. The artillery volunteers will be well taken care of in the new artillery districts; but Mr. Cardwell despairs of doing more "in this connection" with the Yeomanry cavalry than providing them with supernumerary officers of cavalry as adjutants, and with a permanent staff of non-commissioned cavalry officers. In general terms, then, we are to have an infantry belonging to district brigades composed of line, militia, and volunteers—a guards corps deprived of guards' privileges, except so far as the senior officers are brought into relation with royalty, and apparent exemption from the local brigade system—cavalry nearly "as you were"—artillery with the changes specified—ditto militia "brought into connection" with the line—volunteers subjected to military control and regular training under pains and penalties. The whole of our military forces, if complete, would give us 487,000 men; but the regular army is very short of its complement. Instead of the 9,000 men of the first-class army reserve voted last year, we have got only 7,000 to show, though Mr. Cardwell asks for a vote for 10,000 men of the class for this ensuing year. The militia are not up to their full strength. We accept the principles of the scheme laid before the House of Commons, and, without extravagant eulogy or unfair depreciation, recognize in it an honest, able, and strenuous attempt to provide the empire with a military system, though as yet we fail to recognize in it "the one harmonious whole" which it is the aspiration of the War Minister to create.

## HEAVY ARTILLERY.

(From London Engineering, Feb. 16, 1872.)

THERE appears to be a growing desire on the part of civilized nations to keep pace with each other in the possession of big guns, if not to outvie each other in obtaining the biggest to be had. Each State, however, has its own peculiar notions as to the most suitable metal for the piece and the best form to be given to it. In America the Rodman gun of cast iron enjoys considerable popularity, the same metal having been of late successfully utilized in Russia for heavy artillery. In Prussia steel under the guidance of Messrs. Krupp has been wrought into some of the largest rifled guns in existence, whilst at home we are at present satisfied with a compound principle of steel and wrought iron. It is not, however, our intention here to criticise these various constructions, nor to discuss their merits and demerits; we purpose simply to place on record a few facts which have recently come under our notice concerning big guns generally. And, firstly, we observe that Turkey now rejoices in the possession of a 35-ton Rodman gun, which it is stated will rival the famous Woolwich gun of the same weight in endurance. It is mounted on a carriage of an entirely new pattern, which enables the gun to be easily manipulated by one man by the aid of steam machinery. We have no details to hand at present so as to be able to form an opinion upon the merits of the arrangement of steam machinery in question, which may be sound enough in principle, although we entertain no hope of its success in practice. The report which brings the above intelligence states further that the Turkish authorities are awaiting a still heavier gun from America—whence the weapon above referred to came—but that as yet no steamer has been found capable of carrying it. We may hear more of this monster anon.

Having referred to our own Woolwich 35-ton gun, we will here note the present position of that weapon. Our readers will remember that towards the close of last year a crack was developed in the steel lining of the piece. Since that time the gun has remained at rest until the afternoon of yesterday-fortnight, when one round was fired from it with a reduced charge of 110 lb. of powder and a 700 lb. proof projectile. The object was to ascertain whether the gun would endure the strain, notwithstanding the cracked condition of the inner tube. A good velocity was obtained, and the gutta-percha impressions, which were taken from the bore, show that the gun has undergone no perceptible change. The gun has since been fired several times with the same powder charge and weight of projectile as before, and without any visible deterioration. This has established in the minds of the authorities the conclusions at which they arrived when the defect was first discovered, namely, that the injury was produced by the powder giving an inordinate pressure. We, however, still hold to the belief that no such inordinate pressure was ever exerted or produced such a result, the crack being most probably a consequence of the hardened studs with which the proof projectiles were fitted just before the crack appeared.

We mentioned that cast iron had been successfully utilized in Russia in guns of very large dimensions. This was effected by General Prestich at Perm, in 1869,

the gun having been manufactured for marine purposes. It was cast vertically and was cooled by a stream of water on the principle initiated by Major Rodman. It is a smooth bore weapon of 20 in. calibre and weighs 2700 poods or 43.5 tons. The outside diameter at the breech is 80 in., that at the muzzle being 84 in. It fires a spherical shot weighing 1120 lb. (Russian) with a powder charge of 140 lb. It has already fired 820 rounds without exhibiting any signs of distress whatever.

We cannot more appropriately close these jottings than by referring to a 12-inch built-up steel gun which is being constructed by Mr. Vavasseur, at the London Ordnance Works, Southwark. The gun was commenced so far back as May, 1870, and its construction is only proceeded with as other work will permit. The object Mr. Vavasseur has in view is the production of a 12-inch steel gun which shall worthily compete with any gun of similar or other metal, and of the same calibre. The dimensions of the gun are as follows: Length, over all, 18 ft. 9 in.; length of bore, 190 in.; length of rifling, 170 in.; twist of rifling uniform, 1 turn in 30 calibres; number of ribs, 3; there being no grooves whatever in the gun, the grooving being formed in the projectile. Each rib is 1.5 in. wide, and has a depth of 0.3 in. The gun consists of an inner tube of steel 198 in. in length, 21 in. external diameter at the breech end, and 17 1/2 in. at the muzzle. The metal of this tube is 4 1/2 in. thick at the breech, and 2 3/4 in. at the muzzle. Over this tube is a steel jacket 7 ft. 9 in. in length and 30.5 in. in external diameter. Over this jacket is a double series of steel rings, each 3 1/2 in. thick, shrunk over each other, and forming a compound ring 7 in. thick. The rifling is a modification of the Lynam Thomas method; the gun will fire 110 lbs. of large grained gunpowder with 600-pound projectiles. The weapon is now nearly finished, and on its completion we shall place further particulars respecting it before our readers. In the meantime, we may mention that the principles of its construction have been very carefully studied, and are such as to lead to the expectation that Mr. Vavasseur's efforts to produce a really efficient weapon will be successful.

A MEETING of officers who served in the artillery of the Army of the Potomac was held in Providence, R. I., March 6th, to perfect the organization of the Artillery Association of the Army of the Potomac. Both General Barry, the president, and General Hunt, the vice-president, were unavoidably absent. The secretary, General C. S. Wainwright, therefore, called the meeting to order, and General C. H. Tompkins was chosen chairman. The calling of the roll brought out the fact that there were present thirty-two artillery officers representing the artillery brigades of the Fifth and Sixth corps, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and the Regular Army. The constitution and by-laws submitted were unanimously adopted. The constitution provides that the objects of the society shall be to establish the claim of the Artillery corps to its due share in the honors and renown of the Army of the Potomac, and to secure, as far as possible, the acknowledgment thereof in history, and to revive and perpetuate the ties of friendship formed by its members while bearing together the privations of camp, the hardships of the march, and the dangers of the battle-field. All officers who served with the Artillery Corps of the Army of the Potomac, and were honorably discharged, or still hold commissions in the Army of the United States, are eligible to membership upon being accepted by the executive committee, signing the constitution or expressing in writing their adhesion thereto, and paying the initiation fee and dues for the current year. The officers of the Association are a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and three directors, to be chosen annually, the whole forming the executive committee. The by-laws make the initiation fee of membership and the annual dues \$5 each. Those desiring to join the Association should apply to the Treasurer, General C. S. Wainwright, Rhinebeck, N. Y.

The election for officers resulted as follows: President, General William F. Barry, U. S. Army; vice-president, General Henry J. Hunt; secretary, General C. S. Wainwright, late commanding Artillery Brigade Fifth corps; treasurer, Lieut. Fred. M. Sackett, Battery C, First R. I. Light Artillery. Directors: Major Alfred E. Lewis, First Pa. Artillery; Major J. Henry Sleeper, Tenth Mass. Battery; Major B. F. Rittenhouse, Fifth U. S. Artillery.

It was voted that the next meeting of the Association be held on the third Wednesday of next June, (19th) at Boston, and the following were appointed a committee of arrangements to prepare for that meeting: Col. J. W. Walcott, First Maryland Battery; Major Edward J. Jones, Eleventh Mass. Battery; Major Richard Milton, Ninth Mass. Battery; Colonel A. P. Morton, Third Mass. Battery; Major John Bigelow, Ninth Mass. Battery.

A resolution was passed designating the president, vice-president and secretary of the Association as a committee to devise ways and means, and collect such information in regard to the services of the Artillery of the Army of the Potomac, as they may find advisable or possible to collect between now and the next meeting of the Association, and to report at the next meeting.

## MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages should be paid for at the rate of fifty cents each.]

NELSON—DAVIS.—In San Francisco, Cal., February 20, at the residence of P. B. Cornwall, by Rev. Horatio Stebbins, Major J. H. NELSON, Paymaster U. S. Army, to CADDIE E. DAVIS, of San Francisco, Cal. (No cards.)

BEALS—OWEN.—In Bartlett, N. Y., on the 7th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. E. Owen, ALBERT C. BEALS, Hospital Steward U. S. A., to MINNIE C. OWEN, daughter of the officiating clergyman.

CALHOUN—CUSTER.—At Monroe, Michigan, in the M. E. church, March 7, 1872, Lieutenant JAMES CALHOUN, Seventh U. S. Cavalry, to MAGGIE E. CUSTER, of Monroe, Mich. (No cards.)